

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at
21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire
(SK 550 085)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

**Planning Application No. 05/3489/2
Planning Authority Charnwood Borough Council**

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Site Background	1
4	Previous Work and Archaeological Survey	2
5	Methodology	2
6	Results	5
7	Conclusion	5
8	Acknowledgements	5
9	Archive	5
10	Bibliography	6
11	Appendix Design specification	7

Figures

Fig.1	Site Location. Scale 1:50000	2
Fig.2	Trench Location Plan within the development area.	4

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085) on the 16th November 2006. This work was in advance of the proposed demolition of existing buildings and the construction of twelve apartments. This work was carried out on behalf of JA Ball New Homes Ltd by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated, the archaeological results of which were negative. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council (Accession No. X.A16.2007).

2. Introduction

2.1 This document constitutes the first stage of archaeological assessment to have been carried out on land at 21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085). The archaeological assessment was being undertaken on behalf of JA Ball New Homes Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 JA Ball New Homes Ltd propose to demolish existing buildings and erect new apartments. The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that a phase of intrusive trial trench evaluation be undertaken at the site to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site as a condition on planning.

2.3 The development area is located within an area of archaeological potential within the village's medieval core and close to an early access to the village via a medieval pack horse bridge. Therefore the site possesses a moderate to high chance of containing archaeological deposits.

3. Site Background

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 1, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium overlying boulder clay, adjacent to Rothley Brook and boulder clay near to Latimer Street. The site lies at a height of c.62m OD.

3.2 The proposed development is to demolish existing buildings and erect new apartments. The development lies within an area of archaeological potential within the village's medieval; core and close to an early access to the village via a medieval pack horse bridge.



Figure 1 Site Location Scale 1:50000

4 Previous Work and Archaeological Survey

4.1 No known previous archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

5 Methodology

5.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their relevant *Standard and Guidance*.

5.2 The main objectives of the evaluation 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

5.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a 5% sample totalling c.35 sq metres the equivalent of two 15m x 1.6m wide trenches (Clay, 2006).

5.4 Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C and mini-digger using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.5m.

5.5 Trenches were examined by hand cleaning. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans have been tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

5.6 Sections were drawn as appropriate, including records of at least one longitudinal face of each trench.

5.7 Trench locations were recorded using an electronic distance measurer and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

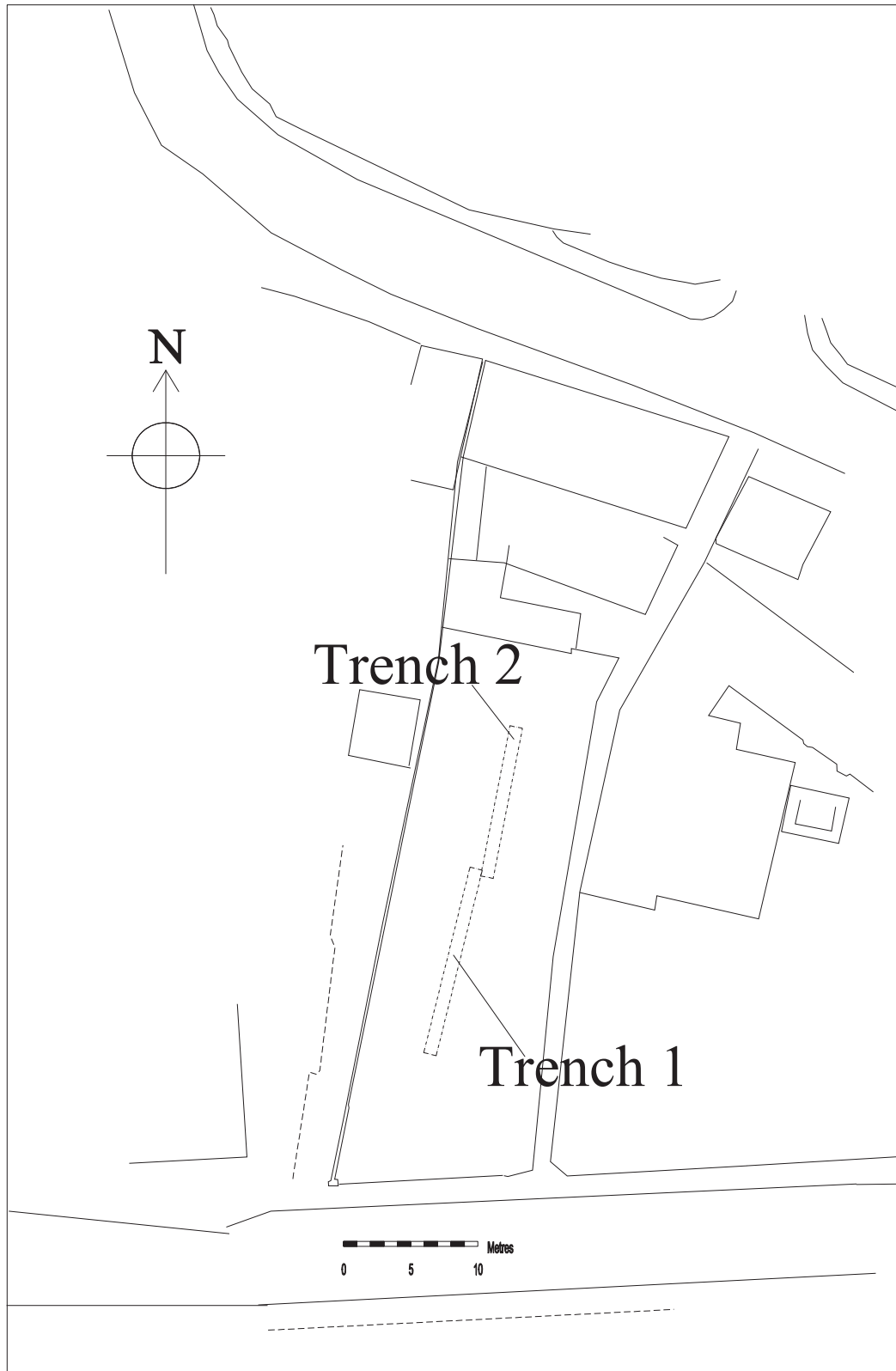


Figure 2 Trench location plan within development area

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	15m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	24 sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.62m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.61 m OD

Trench 1 was located on the southern side of the site and was orientated north-west south-east (fig.2). Initial machining revealed a dark greyish brown silt clay mixed overburden of demolition backfill to a depth of c.1m. Below the overburden light orange/yellow gravely clay natural substratum was revealed. Trench 1 did not contain any archaeological features.

Trench 2 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	15m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	24 sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.62m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.61 m OD

Trench 2 was located on the northern side of the site and was also orientated north-west south-east (fig 2). Initial machining revealed dark greyish brown silt clay mixed overburden of demolition backfill the same as seen in trench 1 to the same depth of c.1m. Trench 2 did not contain any archaeological features.

7. Conclusion

7.1 No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the evaluation due to major truncation from modern foundations. Therefore the exact nature of the archaeology on land at 21, Latimer Street, Leicestershire (SK 550 085) is uncertain.

8. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients J. A. Ball New Homes Ltd for their assistance and co-operation. Patrick Clay who managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Archive

The site archive (X.A16.2007), consisting of paper records, black and white slides and digital colour photographs will be housed with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department.

10 Bibliography

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological work at 21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085)* ULAS Ref: 06/627

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11 Appendix Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085)

Planning Application: 05/3489/2

For: J A Ball New Homes 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 inspection and recording during demolition and exploratory works (trial trenching) post demolition as required by the Planning Authority. J A Ball New Homes Ltd propose to demolish the existing buildings and erect 12 apartments at 21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085; Planning Application: 05/3489/2). It addresses the requirements from Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to the planning authority (their advice letter of 10.1.2006).

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluations and Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological attendance and exploratory works is required to identify any evidence of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Charnwood Borough Council following recommendations from Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The proposed development is to demolish existing buildings and erect new apartments. The development lies within an area of archaeological potential within the village's medieval core and close to an early access to the village via a medieval pack horse bridge.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of works to the building by the client's contractors and subsequent trial trenching:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any historic fabric to the building.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any remains to be affected by the proposed works.
3. To record any historic fabric to be affected by the works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 Inspection and recording

4.1.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the demolition works involving below ground breaking out. During these works, if any archaeological deposits are identified, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 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.

4.1.5 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 owner, Leicestershire Museums and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.1.6 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 owners, Leicestershire Museums and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

4.2 Trial trenching

4.2.1 A 5% trial trenching sample totalling *c.* 35 sq metres the equivalent of two 15 m x 1.6m wide trenches is proposed.

4.2.2 The topsoil and disturbed subsoil will be removed in spits by machine using a toothless ditching bucket (or similar) under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata are encountered.

4.2.3 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. 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).

4.2.5. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

4.2.6 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.

4.2.7 Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The client, Leicester City Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.3 Mitigation Strategy

4.3.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the City Archaeologist and the client a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all historic fabric 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 historic fabric 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 digital images, black and white prints and colour transparencies as appropriate 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 Museum 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.

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 works. 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 (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 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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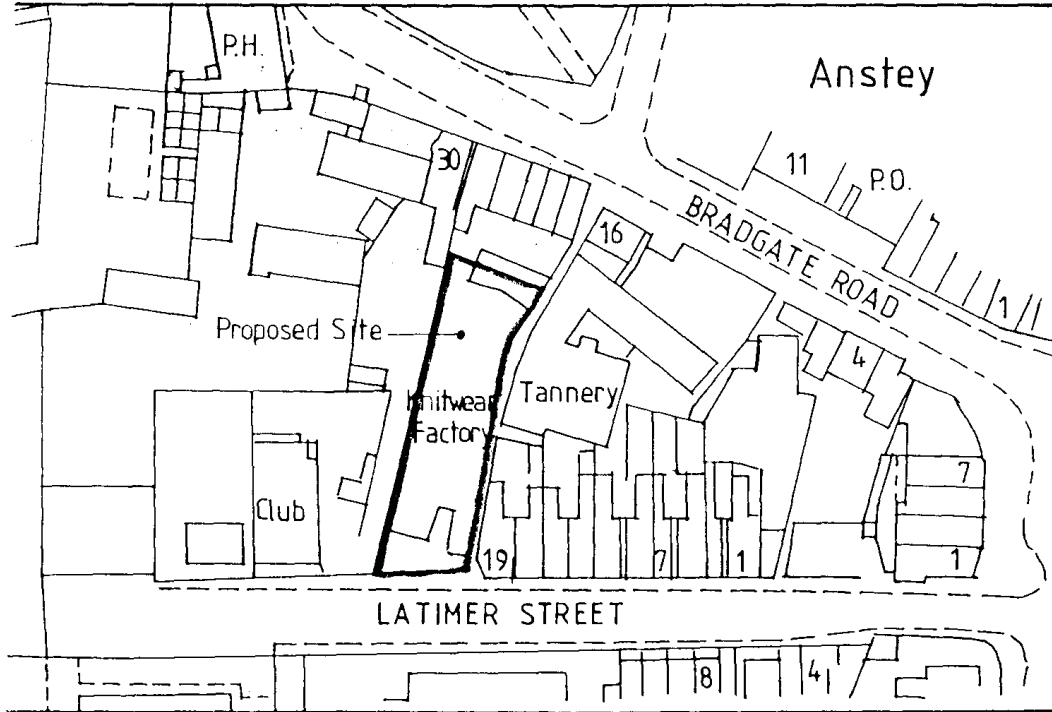


Figure 1 Location of the application area.

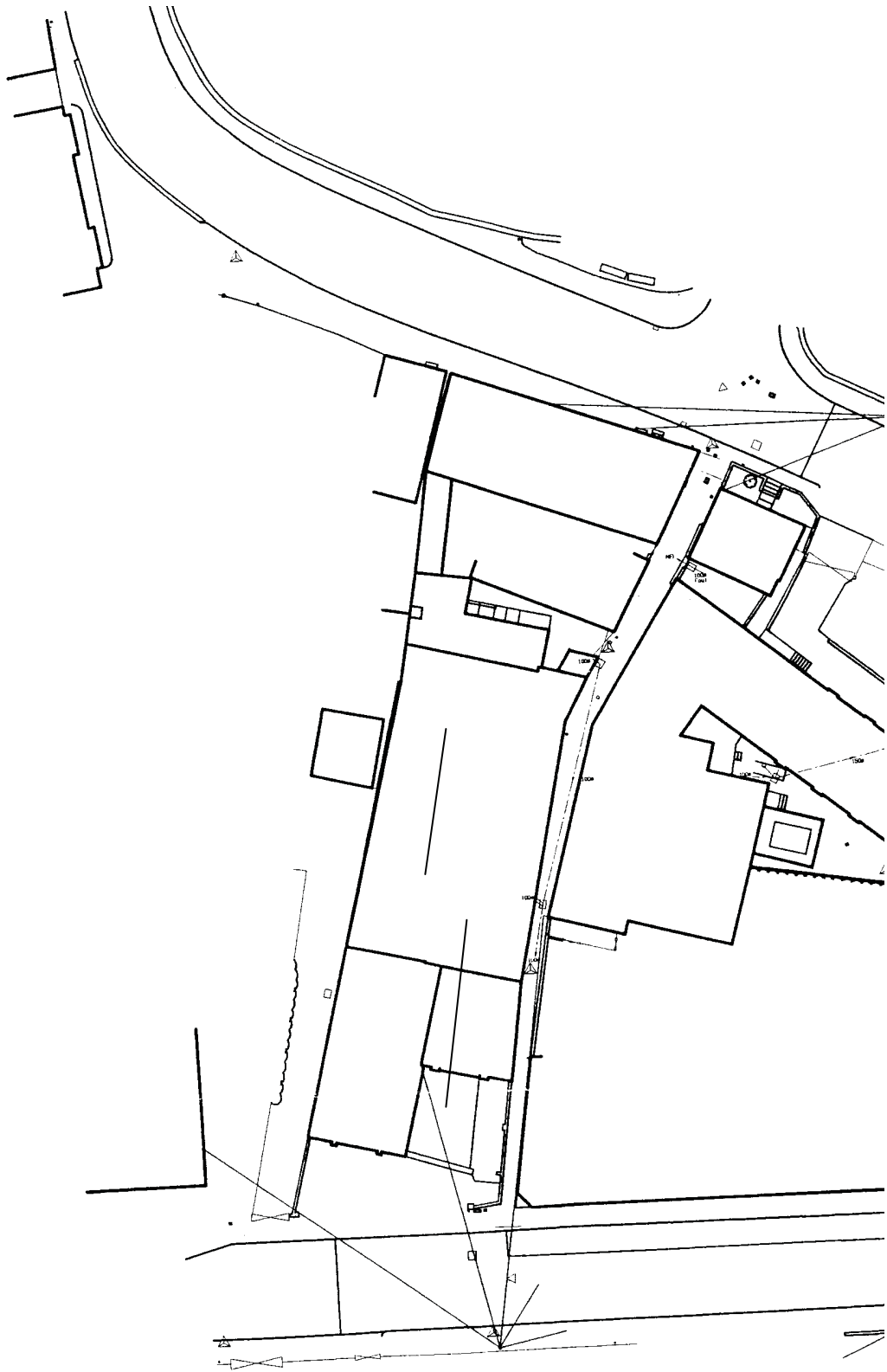


Figure 2 Plan of development showing proposed trench locations

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

21, Latimer Street, Anstey, Leicestershire (SK 550 085)

Planning Application: 05/3489/2

For: J A Ball New Homes Ltd

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief during demolition of a building followed by trial trench exploratory works.

1.2 The work will involve observation of works and trial trench excavations during daylight hours and recording of any 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 (trowels etc) and recording of features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS (2005) and Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Working within a derelict building.

Precautions. University of Leicester Archaeological Services has been led to believe that it is safe to enter the majority of the building.

The archaeological building recorder will only enter rooms that they feel are safe.

2.6 Other risks

Precautions. If unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. pigeon guano or other contaminants or hazards are identified, such areas will not be entered, and the client will be informed of the risk.

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
27.10.2006