

**Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at
Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford,
Leicestershire (SK 520 098)**

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For Mr and Mrs Eversfield
Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council**

Checked by Project Manager

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Site Background	1
4	Methodology	2
5	Results	4
6	Conclusion	7
7	Archive	7
8	Acknowledgements	7
9	Bibliography	8
10	Appendix 1 Design specification	9

Figures

Fig.1	Site Location. Scale 1:50000	2
Fig.2	Proposed Development Plan Scale 1:200	3
Fig.3	Plan of Site Showing Robber Trench [1], (2).	4
Fig.4	Section 1.01 Section Through Robber Trench	5
Fig.5	General Shot Looking North-West Prior to Excavation	6
Fig.6	General Shot Looking North-West After Excavation	6
Fig.7	Section Through Robber Trench Looking East	7

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Greg Farnworth-Jones

1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on Land at Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098) on the 2nd and the 6th of February 2007. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Eversfield in advance of a residential extension. The work involved observing foundation trenches for any signs of archaeological activity. The sole discovery from the archaeological investigation comprised the robbed-out remains of an early boundary wall to the rear of the property. No associated features or finds were uncovered. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A39.2007.

2. Introduction

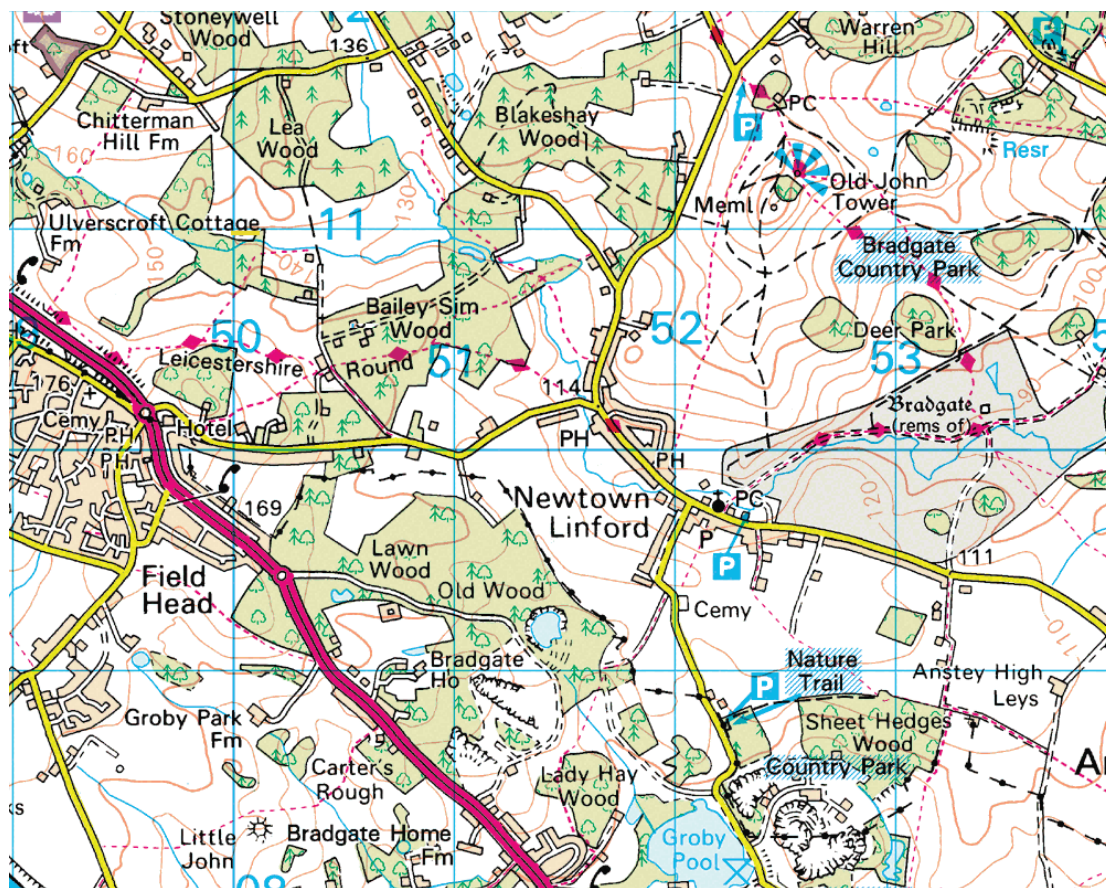
2.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on land at Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098). The work was being undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Eversfield by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Mr and Mrs Eversfield propose to build an extension on to a residential property on land at Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098). 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 an archaeological watching brief of the site area be carried out during the ground works to ensure that any archaeological remains which might be affected could be adequately recorded.

3 Site Background

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium and Mercia Mudstone with underlying Pleistocene to Recent sands and gravels (Wolston) and Wolston Clay. The land lies at a height of *c.*88mOD.

3.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It occupies a street frontage plot, within the historic settlement core of Newtown Linford (HER Ref: MLE 734), reasonably close (*c.* 180m) to the medieval All Saints' parish church (MLE730 and 14147). The proposal involves the excavation of footings and introductions of services etc. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.



1. Site location 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 Methodology

4.1 All archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

4.2 The archaeological watching brief involved control and supervision of ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

4.3 The main objectives of the work were:

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.

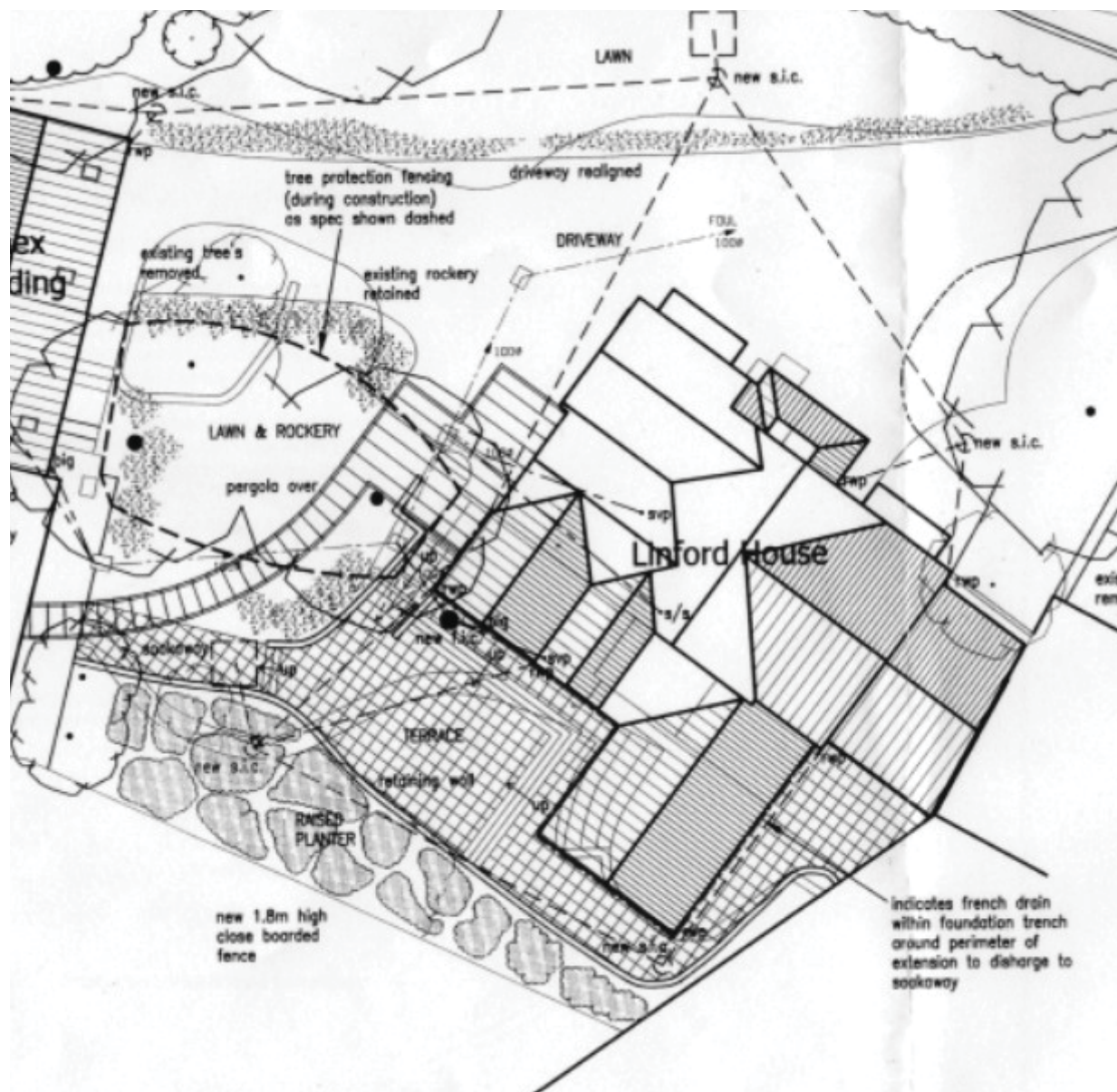


Figure 2 Proposed Development Plan Scale 1:200 North At Top.

5 Results

5.1 The site was attended on the 2nd and 6th February 2007. Initial machine stripping of topsoil revealed that most of the ground consisted of made up overburden containing fragments of demolition material with mixed soils.

5.2 At the southern edge of the site, a linear feature [1] (2), orientated approximately east-west, was located, which measured 16m in length (excavated length) 1m wide and 0.8m deep (Figure 3 & Figure 4).

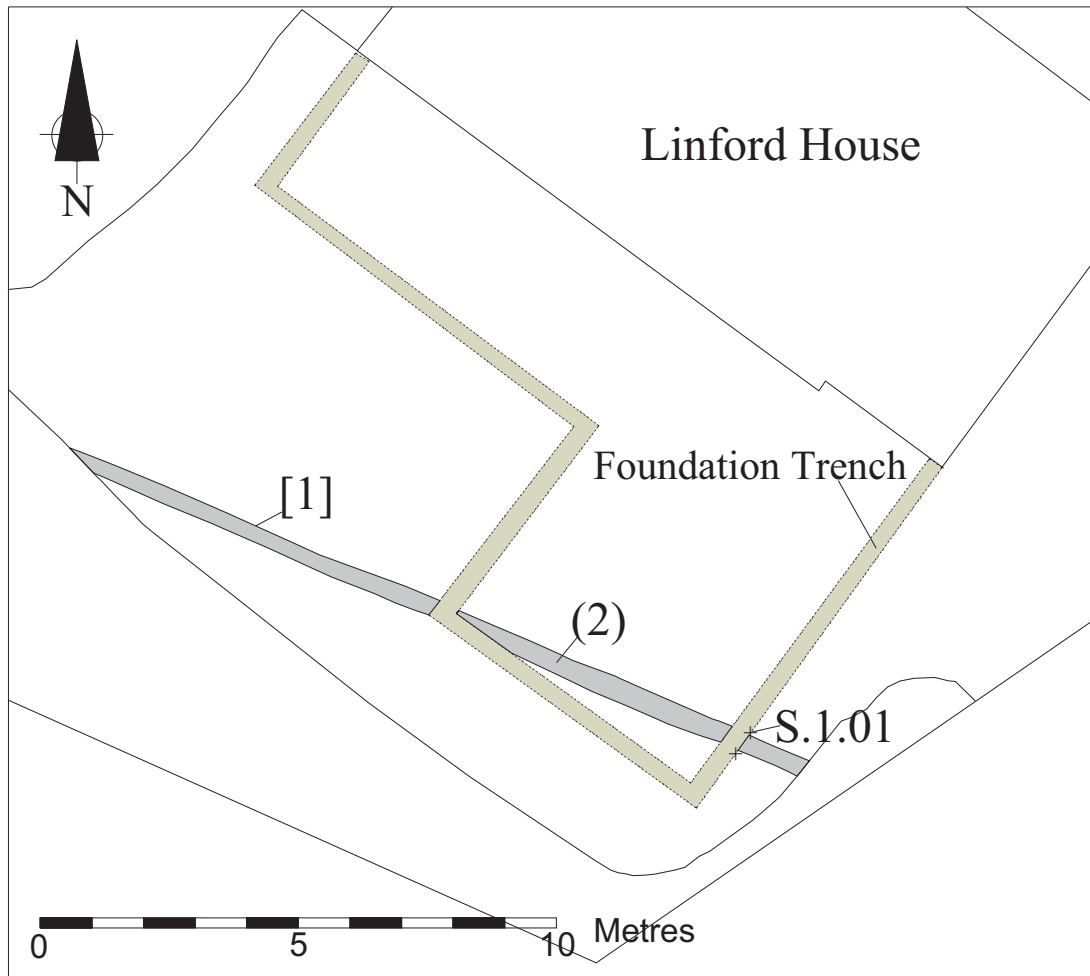


Figure 3 Plan of Site Showing Robber Trench [1], (2). Scale 1:200

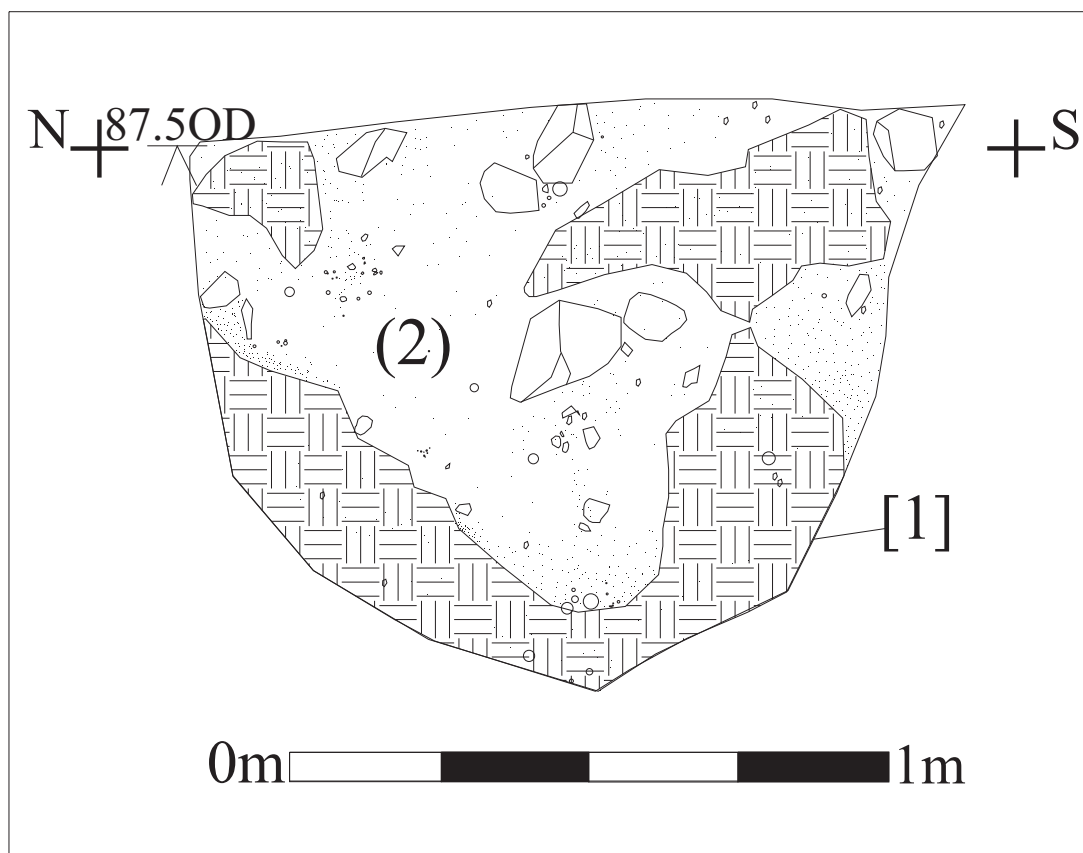


Figure 4. Section 1.01 Showing Robber Trench.

5.3 Subsequent machining of the foundation trenches for the new extension chopped through the linear feature, creating a section which was subsequently recorded (Figure 4) & (Figure 7).

5.4 Excavation revealed backfilled demolition debris deposits within fill (2), including rubble >30%, patches of blue clay <40%, red clay <10%, gravel <10%, sand <10% with mortar patches <5% and charcoal flecks <2%. No archaeological artefacts were found within fill (2). Fill (2) appeared to be the backfilled material from a robbed out wall, or 'robber trench' (Figure 4) & (Figure 7).

5.5 No other archaeological finds or features were located during the watching brief suggesting that the robbed out wall [1], (2), may have been an earlier property boundary rather than a building.



Figure 5 Looking North West Showing Robber Trench Prior to Excavation



Figure 6 Looking North West after Excavation



Figure 7 Section Through Robber Trench Looking East

6 Conclusion

6.1 The archaeology of the land at the rear of Linford House, 6, Main Street, Leicestershire (SK 520 098) consisted of the remains of a robbed out wall [1], (2), which was most probably an earlier boundary wall at the rear of the property due to the absence of any associated features. The dating for the wall, or the subsequent robbing is uncertain due to the absence of finds from within the fill (2), but the wall itself may date from either the late medieval period to the post-medieval period, with the latter date perhaps being the most likely.

7 Archive

7.1 The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A39.2006. It consists of a watching brief recording form, permatrace plan and section drawing and digital photographs.

8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs Eversfield, for there assistance and co-operation. Richard Buckley managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author.

9 Bibliography

Clark, R, 2006, *A Brief for Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (A Watching Brief)*. Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

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Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

**Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford,
Leicestershire (SK 520 098)**

For Mr and Mrs Eversfield

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

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, including control and supervision of ground works, 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 development at the above site.

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 Leicester* (LMS).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involves observation of foundation and service trench excavations to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site lies within the historic core of Newtown Linford and is therefore of some potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors:

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 observation of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, 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 client, Planning Authority, 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 client and planning authority

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 client and the Senior Planning archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. 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 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 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 06.02.2007. 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

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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1/2/07

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

***Linford House, 6, Main Street, Newtown Linford,
Leicestershire (SK 520 098)***

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 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 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.

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

Richard Buckley
1/2/07