

Archaeological Services

An Intensive Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to Paudy Lane & Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire NGR: SK 6247 1955

Dr. Roger Kipling



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For: Sunrise Poultry Farms

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NGR: SK 6247 1955

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Summary

An intensive archaeological watching brief was undertaken in April 2010 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Sunrise Poultry Farms during soil stripping and groundworks associated with construction of an access road on land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire. Attendance at the site occurred on the 20th April 2010.

The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A71.2010.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Sunrise Poultry Farms to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of poultry sheds and associated access roads. The site is located on land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK62471955; Fig. 1). The groundworks consisted of a topsoil strip of the access road.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, and that the main access road was likely to cut across a Roman road running from Paudy Farm to Six Hills. In view of the potential impact of the development the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended a watching brief to be undertaken on groundworks. A design specification (ULAS 2009) was approved following the Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (An Intensive Watching Brief) (LCC 12th Feb 2010).

Archaeological attendance at the site was carried out on the 20th April 2010 and involved the monitoring of groundworks comprising soil stripping in preparation for construction of the access road to the site of the proposed poultry house.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation, overlain with Oadby member clays and head deposits (British Geological Survey of

Great Britain). The proposed development area is fairly flat at a height of c.125m OD. The site is located on relatively flat land with a slight fall to the north-east.

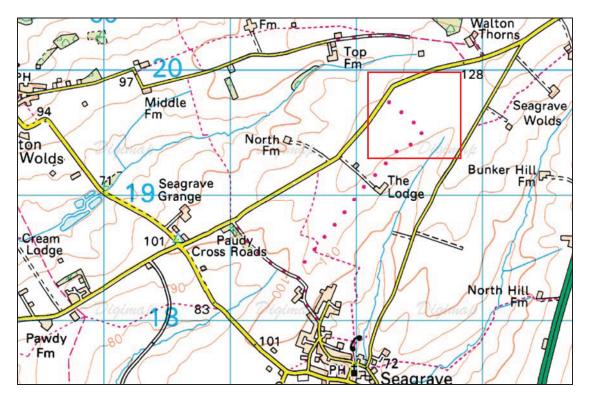


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000) Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey[®] on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021186.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The development area has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The Saltway, a Roman road (HER ref. MLE8764), running north-east from Quorn/Barrow Upon Soar, follows an approximately straight line from Paudy Farm to Six Hills and then onward along the B676 (Six Hills Lane). The access track was deemed likely to cut across the road at approximately SK62391962 (Fig. 2). Other features associated with the Roman road may also have existed in the area and could have been impacted by the development.

Aims and Methods

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation the aim of the watching brief was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Archaeology and the Historic Environment (PPS 5). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

Ground working activity comprised a machine strip of topsoil from a new access road running north-west – south-east parallel to a field edge running south-east from Paudy Lane (Fig. 2). A site visit on the 20th April 2010 was made in order to examine a c.600m long, c.2m wide length of newly-stripped road line in order and to monitor machining further east on the line of the access road.

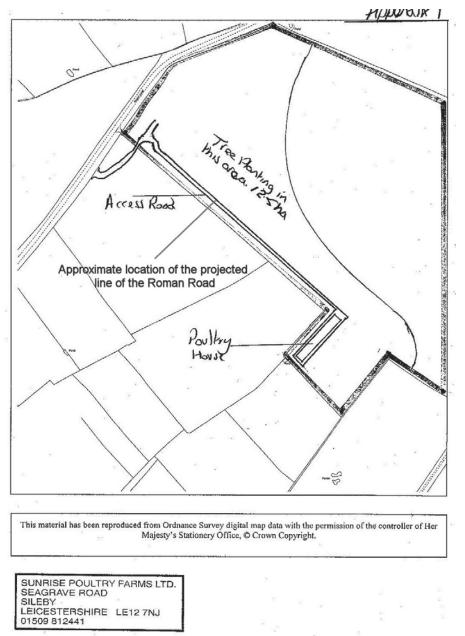


Figure 2: Site layout for poultry houses and access road and the location of the projected line of the Roman Road (plans supplied by client)

An initial visual inspection of the length of machined access road line was undertaken. Subsequently, a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a 2m toothless ditching bucket was employed in order to target the estimated location of the Roman road, centred on the estimated point at which the Roman road crossed the site. A *c*.25m length of the road line was machine-cleaned to the level of the natural clay in order to investigate whether any evidence for the Roman road was visible (Figs 3 and 4).

Results

Machine removal of a 0.18m - 0.22m depth of plough soil revealed a clean, densely compacted pale orange-brown and pale blue-grey natural clay; no subsoil was present. No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the watching brief, with no indications of the Roman road being present, either as a surviving metalled surface or in terms of associated drainage ditches. Nor were there indications of the road line in the (wheat) field crop of its line, either as visible crop marks or earthworks. The site owner informed the author that, as far as he was aware, there had been no evidence for a road on the land, which had been under family ownership for over 30 years (A. Crawley. pers. comm.).



Figure 3: Machining in progress; view north-west



Figure 4: Sample section of machined road line (scale: 1m)

Conclusions

The archaeological watching brief at Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire, revealed no evidence for archaeological finds or features within the development site. Although particular attention was paid to the projected location of the Roman road, no evidence was recovered to suggest the presence of the road in the areas looked at.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A71.2010), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with the County Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- Two watching brief attendance forms
- 4 digital photographs
- 4 monochrome (film) photographs
- A risk assessment form

Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Sunrise Poultry Farms. The project was managed by Vicki Score.

Bibliography

- ULAS 2010 Design Specification for Archaeological Work at Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK 62471955). 10/339
- LCC 12th Feb 2010, Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (An Intensive Watching Brief) at land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire.

Oasis Information

Project Name	Land at Paudy Lane & Berrycott Lane, Seagrove,
	Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	Arable agricultural
Development Type	Access road & chicken houses
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the	Planning consent granted, construction in progress.
Planning Process	
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 62471955
Start/end dates of field	20th April 2010
work	
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	

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Appendix 1: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Investigation (INTENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF)

Land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire

NGR: SK62471955

Client: Sunrise Poultry Farms Ltd.

Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

1. Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a design specification for a phase of archaeological investigation and recording at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site.
- 1.2 An Intensive Watching Brief is defined by the IfA as having an archaeologist 'present during sensitive ground disturbance' (IfA 2008).
- 1.3 This document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. Unless otherwise detailed within this Design Specification, the watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, the Leicestershire County Council brief (12-02-2010). The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

□ Archaeological attendance and recording (intensive watching brief)

2. Background (taken from the Brief).

Context of the Project

2.1. The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during soil stripping and groundworks for services, landscaping, foundations etc.

Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.2 The site lies on land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire (SK62471955; Fig. 1).
- 2.3 The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation, overlain with Oadby member clays and head deposits (British Geological Survey of Great Britain).

Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief)

- 2.4 The development area has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The Saltway, a Roman road runs from Paudy Farm to Six Hills and along the B676. The access track is likely to cut across the road at approximately SK62391962. Other features associated with the Roman road may also be impacted by the development.
- 2.5 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended archaeological attendance (an intensive watching brief) to be undertaken during soil stripping and groundworks for footings, landscaping and services etc.

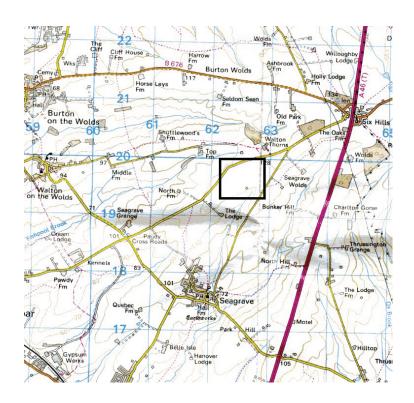


Figure 1: Site location. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021186.

3. Archaeological Objectives

Through archaeological monitoring of groundworks:

- \Box To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- $\hfill\square$ To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits.
- \Box To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- \Box To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.
- 4.4 All ground reduction and excavation is to be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.

Watching Brief Methodology

4.5 The project requires an intensive watching brief. This will involve the inspection of all sensitive groundworks (e.g. stripped areas and service and foundation trenches) by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

- 4.6 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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 Planning Archaeologist, the Client and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

Recording Systems

- 4.10 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.11 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.12 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.13 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.14 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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.
- 4.15 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

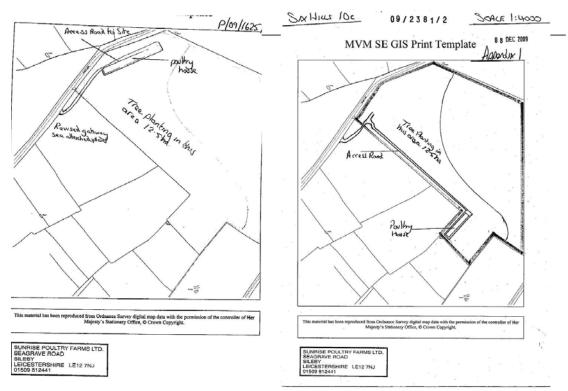


Fig. 2 Site layout for poultry houses and access roads (Plans provided by client)

5. Finds & samples

5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.
- 5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. As part of this phase, environmental sampling will be undertaken as appropriate in order to assess the environmental potential of the deep ditch or pond-like features under investigation Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist.
- 5.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/HER to be

distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

- 6.2 The report will include consideration of:
 - \Box The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - □ The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - $\hfill\square$ The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
 - □ The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
 - □ Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - \Box Summary.
 - \Box The location and size of the archive.
 - □ A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) 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 and Dissemination of Results

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.
- 7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 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.

10. Timetable

- 10.1 The work is currently scheduled for Mid April 2010. It will involve one person on site at varying times throughout the groundworks.
- 10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.
- 10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

12. Insurance

12.1 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.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008	Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for
	Archaeologists)
IfA, 2008	Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
IfA, 2008	Code of Conduct
LCC (12-02-	Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (an intensive
2010)	watching brief) at Land at the Rear of 3-9 Leicester Road, Oady, Leicestershire.

17th March 2010

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Land adjacent to Paudy Lane and Berrycott Lane, Seagrave, Leicestershire Health and Saftey Statement

NGR: SK62471955

Client: Sunrise Poultry Farms

A risks assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

- 1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief. 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

1 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

Working within an excavation.

2.1 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.

Working with plant.

2.2 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. Ear defenders / plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use.Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

Working in vicinity of services

2.3 If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

2.4 In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away from the trenches. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

Working with chemicals.

2.5 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.

Other risks

2.6 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.

Contact Details

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