

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at St Luke's Hospital,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire (SP7250 8790)**

Vicki Score



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Hospital, Market Harborough, Leicestershire**

(NGR SP7250 8790)

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Planning Application: 09/01274/OUT

For: Summers Inman LLP

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:  **Date:** 14-04-2010

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for remedial work to remove asbestos. The area was the former site of the Union Workhouse and associated foundations, floors and service trenches were recorded. However despite being in an area of archaeological significance nothing earlier than the 19th century workhouse foundations were recorded and it is likely that the ground had been levelled prior to this

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums, under the accession number XA76.2010.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Summers Inman LLP to undertake an archaeological watching brief during remedial work to remove asbestos within the Hospital grounds (SK 72508 87940; Fig. 1).

The project involves remediation proposals for an area of land within the Hospital grounds contaminated with asbestos left as a result of the demolition of a previous Workhouse building some 30-35 years ago. The land has been subsequently landscaped and remained unopened until relatively recently.

The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a number of archaeologically significant remains within the area. The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council therefore advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance was approved. This consisted of a watching brief carried out during the groundworks.

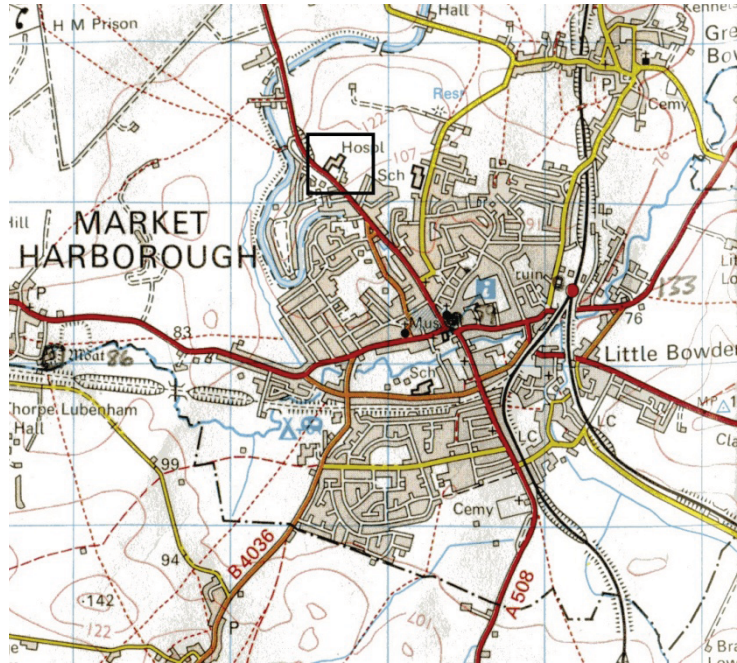


Figure 1: Site location

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 100029495.

2. Geological and Topographical Background

The site lies on a rise at the north side of Market Harborough in the grounds of St Luke's Hospital. The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Dryham Formation Mudstone. There are areas of overlying Diamicton Till deposits to the north and west (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Market Harborough). The proposed development area is on fairly flat land at a height of *c.* 99m OD.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The following information is taken from George 2005.

Archaeological deposits have been found nearby including a Roman coin and undated metal objects. Finds to the south of Great Bowden Hall suggest a Roman occupation site (**HER ref. LE1999**). Several Roman coins have also been found within the general area (**LE7877, LE7879, LE7881**) as well as sherds of Roman pottery from the south-east slope of Lubenham Hill (**LE10192**). A potential Iron Age settlement to the north-west of the site has also recently been discovered at the Airfield Farm site.

In 1873, during the construction of foundations on 'Stone House' in Little Bowden a collection of brooches and pottery was found, to the south-west of the development (**LE1978**). It has been suggested the material may represent evidence for an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the site. An iron object thought to be an early Anglo-Saxon spearhead has been found at 46 Fairfield Road, also to the southeast (**LE10104**).

Market Harborough is first mentioned in the Pipe Roll of 1176-7. At the time of the Norman Conquest, the manorial centre was at Great Bowden, with Harborough merely part of the Great Bowden field system. It is assumed that the town was a planned creation under the encouragement of Henry II (Davies 1984, 14), located close to the crossing point of the river Welland on the Leicester-Northampton road. The name Harborough is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *haefera-beorg*, oat-hill, which may have originally been the field name where the settlement was established (Davies 1984, 14). The hill that fits this interpretation is the present Mill Hill. Although there is no surviving foundation for a market, it is likely that this was the reason for the town's creation as a market place for the manor. Although the proposed development area is located outside the medieval core of Market Harborough (LE1959), a silver penny of Edward I or II (1272-1307 or 1307-1327) was found to the northwest of the Hospital (LE6755).

There is documentary evidence for a post-medieval windmill to the south of Great Bowden Hall (LE1949) and earthworks indicate a post-medieval post mill, Harborough Mill to the northwest (LE1952). A flat-topped mill mound is present but has been damaged by re-alignment of the A6. Northeast of Lubenham Hill, a stone revetment surrounding (on two sides at least) a boggy area may suggest a managed spring (LE10191).

Union Workhouse

The area in the grounds of St Luke's Hospital was once the site of the Union Workhouse. In 1836 -7 the Poor Law Commissioners authorised an expenditure of £3,600 to build the workhouse which was designed by Sampson Kempthorne (Higginbotham 2004). Kempthorne was a workhouse architect who designed a number of workhouses (although this was his only East Midlands project). He used two designs, the 'square plan and the 'hexagonal' or 'Y' plan, both with a central supervisory hub with accommodation wings radiating out for different classes of inmates. The areas between the wings formed segregated exercise yards. Market Harborough's union workhouse followed the model "square" design published by the Poor Commissioners in 1835, as shown on the 1899 OS map (George 2005; Fig. 2).

Although capable of housing over 200 inmates, it rarely housed half that number with the 1871 census shows 53 paupers in residence. A new infirmary was built in the early 20th century to the north of the workhouse (Higginbotham 2004). The workhouse buildings were still standing in 1929; however the majority of them had been demolished sometime before 1983.

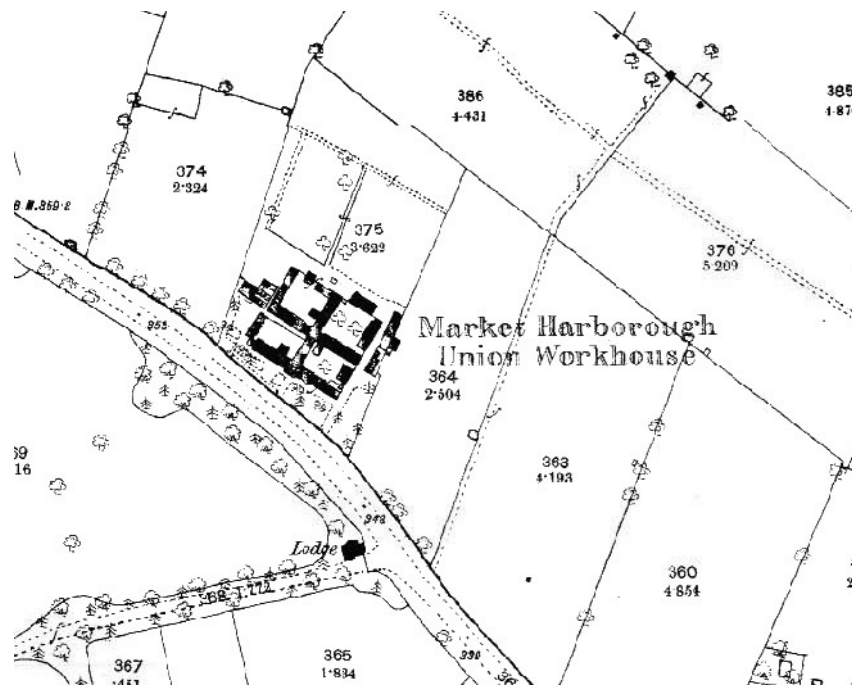


Figure 2: 1889 OS map showing the square design of the Union Workhouse.

4. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, was:

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

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008), and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

Excavation groundworks were carried out by 360° excavator with a flat bladed bucket. Visits were carried out on five occasions between 18th March and 12th April 2010.

5. Results

The proposed development area occupied a grassed area at the front of the hospital, adjacent to Leicester Road, next to a building currently used as storage. A large area was removed of topsoil and overburden along with several smaller areas identified as hot spots (Figs 3 and 4).

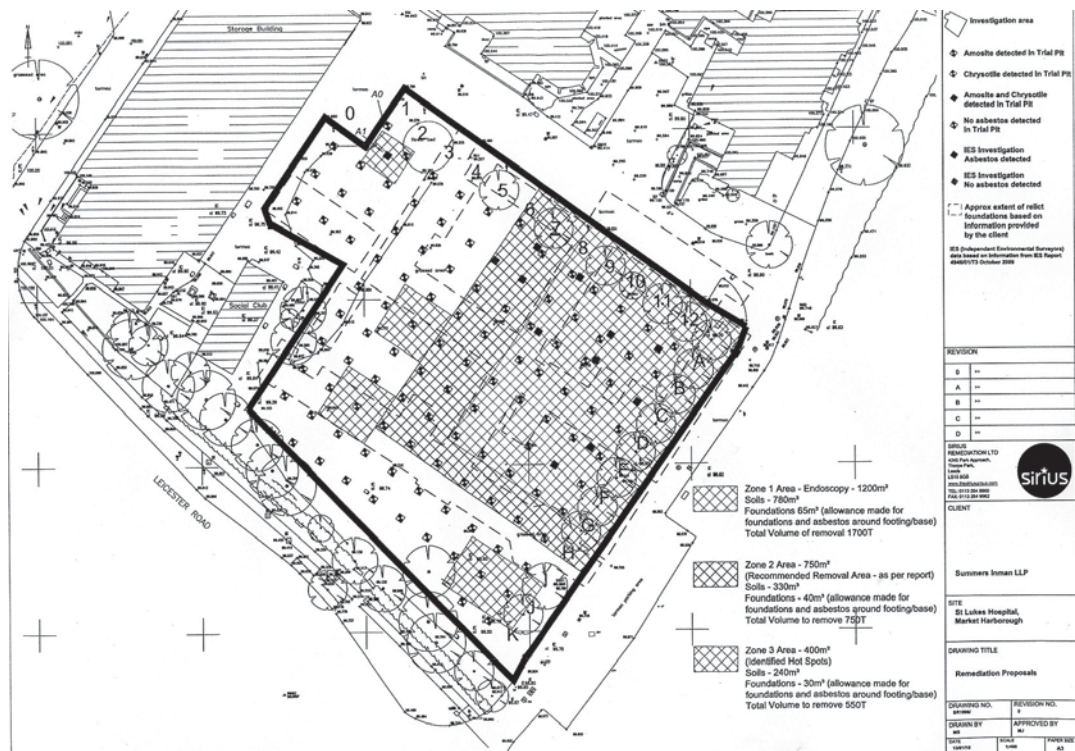


Figure 3: Location of the remedial works being carried out (plan provided by client).



Figure 4: Site after initial strip looking west towards Leicester Road.

The topsoil varied in thickness, mostly between 0.2 and 0.3m deep with varying amounts of overburden (Fig. 3). The natural soil was a yellow-brown plastic clay with pale grey mottles (Figs 4 and 5). A number of foundations were present across the site, mainly brick walls and concrete floors as well as several wells. Several obsolete drains and service trenches were also visible. These were all cut into the natural yellow clay substrata with no suggestion of a subsoil and it seems likely that the area was levelled (and therefore truncated), prior to the erection of the workhouse.

With the exception of the foundations associated with the old workhouse, no archaeological features were identified and no artefacts earlier than the 20th century were recorded.



Figure 5: Looking south at the yellow clay exposed by the haul road.

6. Conclusion

Although the groundworks covered by this watching brief were within an area of significant archaeological potential, the watching brief confirmed that the proposed development area had undergone significant disturbance by the building of the workhouse in the 19th century.

Apart from the foundations and features associated with the workhouse, nothing of any earlier archaeological significance was identified.

7. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

CD containing 25 digital images

1 A4 Contact sheet

5 A4 Watching brief sheets

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2010-082)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums under the Accession Number XA76.2010.

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Historical & Archaeological Society* in due course.

8. References

Davies, J. 1984, *The Book of Market Harborough*

George, S. 2005, *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of St Luke's Hospital Site and Ambulance Station, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 726 882)*.
Unpublished ULAS Report No. 2005-017.

Higginbotham, P. 2004, *The Workhouse Website: Market Harborough, Leicestershire*.
<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/MarketHarborough/MarketHarborough.html> 25/04/2010.

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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**Design Specification for Archaeological Investigation (INTERMITTENT WATCHING BRIEF)***St Luke's Hospital, 33 Leicester Road, Market Harborough*

NGR: SK623003

Client: Summers Inman LLP /

NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Community Health Services Trust

Authority: Harborough Borough Council**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 Intermittent Watching Brief is defined by the IfA as having an archaeologist 'viewing the trenches after machining' (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 (March 2010). The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:
 - Archaeological attendance and recording (intermittent watching brief)

Background (taken from the Brief).*Context of the Project*

- 2.1. The project involves remediation proposals for an area of land within the Hospital grounds contaminated with asbestos left as a result of the demolition of a previous Workhouse building some 30 / 35 years ago. The land has been subsequently landscaped and remained unopened until relatively recently.

Geological and Topographical Background

- 2.2 The site lies on a rise at the north side of Market Harborough (SK72890, 88750; Fig. 1), at St Luke's Hospital. The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Dryham Formation Mudstone. There are areas of overlying Diamicton Till deposits to the north and west (British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Market Harborough).

Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief)

- 2.4 The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). Archaeological deposits have been found nearby including a Roman coin and undated metal objects. An Anglo Saxon cemetery lies in the vicinity and brooches and other finds have been recorded to the south-west (MLE 1978). The area is likely to have been disturbed by the construction, use and demolition of the 19th century workhouse, and there is the potential that buried archaeological remains might be affected by the remedial works.
- 2.5 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended archaeological attendance (an intermittent watching brief) to be undertaken during the work.

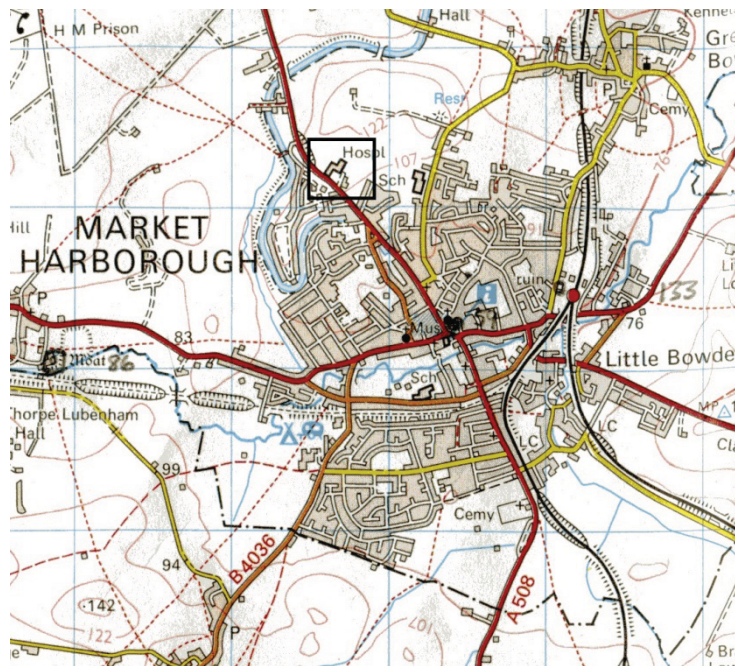


Figure 1: Site location.

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Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 Through archaeological monitoring of groundworks:
- 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.

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 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Watching Brief Methodology

- 4.5 The project requires an intermittent watching brief as defined in the IfA *Standards and Guidance* (2008). This will involve the inspection of all 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

- 4.11 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.12 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

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 County 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

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:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
 - The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - 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.
 - Summary.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 6.3 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment 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.
- 6.4 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.

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.

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.

Timetable

- 9.1 The archaeological work is expected to begin week commencing 22nd March 2010. It will involve one person on site at varying times throughout the groundworks.

Health and Safety

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 The site has a significant health & safety risk due to the presence of asbestos on the site. The archaeologist will adhere to all health and safety procedures required by the principal contactor and will not enter any excavations without the necessary PPE and training. A site meeting will take place on 17th March to assess the site and the Health & Safety constraints. It is expected that the on site archaeologist will be fully inducted as to the risks and the appropriate procedures.

Insurance

- 11.1 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.

Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008	<i>Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives</i> (Institute for Archaeologists)
IfA, 2008	<i>Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.</i>
IfA, 2008	<i>Code of Conduct</i>
Leicestershire County Council HNET, March 2010	<i>Brief for Archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording (An intermittent watching brief). St Luke's Hospital, 33 Leicester Road, Market Harborough.</i>

16-03-2010

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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 archaeological watching brief. It will be revised following a site meeting and the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.
- 1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.3-0.5 m. There will be no entry to any excavations deeper than 1m without adequate safeguards. 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
- 1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation. All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2. Risks Assessment***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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