



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Leicester General Hospital,
Coleman Road,
Leicester (SK 623 038)**

Gerwyn Richards



ULAS Report No 2010-021
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief Carried Out
At Leicester General Hospital, Coleman Road.
Leicester.**

(NGR SK 623 038)

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: P.A 20082052

For: Leicester General Hospital.

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 18.02.2010

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Leicester General Hospital,
Coleman Road, Leicester. (SK 623 038)**

Contents

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Aims and Methodology	3
3. Results	4
4. Archive & Publication	4
5. References	4
Appendix Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief & Client Supplied Drawings.	7

Figures

Figure 1 Site Location	3
Figure 2 Proposed Development Area.	5
Figure 3 Mid Twentieth Century Aerial View.	5
Figure 4 Site Plan.	6
Figure 5 North-west Facing Section of [001].	8
Figure 6 North-wWest Facing Section of [001].	8

**An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Leicester General Hospital,
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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Leicester General Hospital to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of the construction of a temporary car off Gwendolan Road, within the General Hospital site.

A single Romano-British ditch, which had been badly truncated, was exposed and sample excavated and pottery sherds with a probable terminal date in mid or late first century AD were retrieved.

Evidence of post-medieval limestone quarrying, for which the area is well known, was observed within the northern part of the proposed development area. Due to the shallow formation level and the temporary nature of the works other archaeological deposits may remain below the formation level of the car park.

The archive will be held by Leicester City Council, under the accession number A1. 2010.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Leicester General Hospital to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in advance of the construction of a temporary car park off Gwendolan Road, within the Hospital grounds (SK 623 038; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located immediately adjacent to the Gwendolan Road car park within the south-easternmost part of the General Hospital site. The groundworks consisted of a topsoil strip. No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area itself although other archaeological recording has been carried out within the General Hospital site (e.g Chapman 2000).

The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a number of archaeologically significant remains within the General Hospital (Marsden 1998; Hunt 2009). These include an Iron Age farmstead (HER Ref: MLC1223) excavated in 2000 to the north of the proposed development area (Chapman 2000). Limited evidence of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing (HER Ref: MLC1585) was observed during an archaeological watching brief to the north-east of the proposed development area. The hospital itself is also recorded (HER Ref MLC1857).

The General Hospital was originally built in 1905 as the North Evington Poor Law Infirmary, a Workhouse, by the Leicester Board of Guardians in order to cope with the rapid population growth during the later years of the 19th century. The hospital was known locally as “The Palace on the Hill”. The original building cost £79,575 and was designed to hold 512 patients. Originally fronting to the south-east it consisted of one large main block, two wings to the south-west and the north-east and a rear wing with a water tower and possible boiler house to the north-west. During the Great War the hospital was known as the North Evington War Hospital and between 1918 and 1930 it was known as the North Evington Infirmary. In 1930 the City Health Committee took it over and was re-named City General Hospital. In 1948 with the formation of the National Health Service, the hospital was once again renamed as Leicester General Hospital and has remained so to the present day.

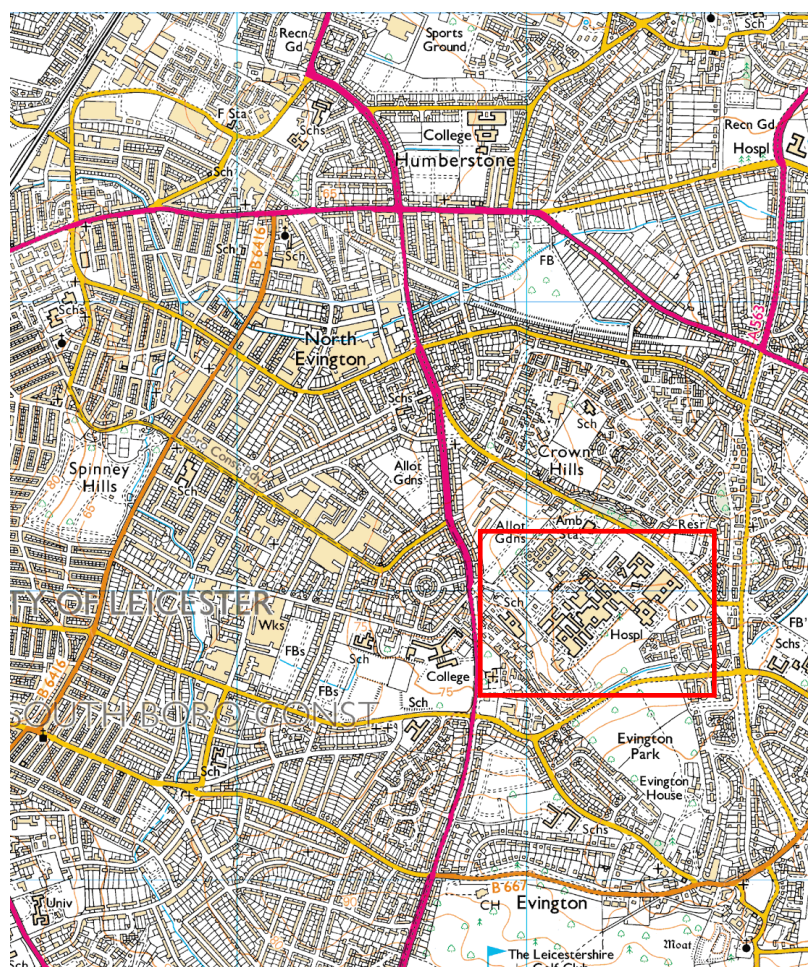


Figure 1. Site location

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.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicester City Council 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 undertaken by the clients contractors. This work followed Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30).

2. Aims and Methodology

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

- 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.

All groundworks were carried out by 12 tonne back actor with ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision between January 18th 2010 and January 26th 2010.

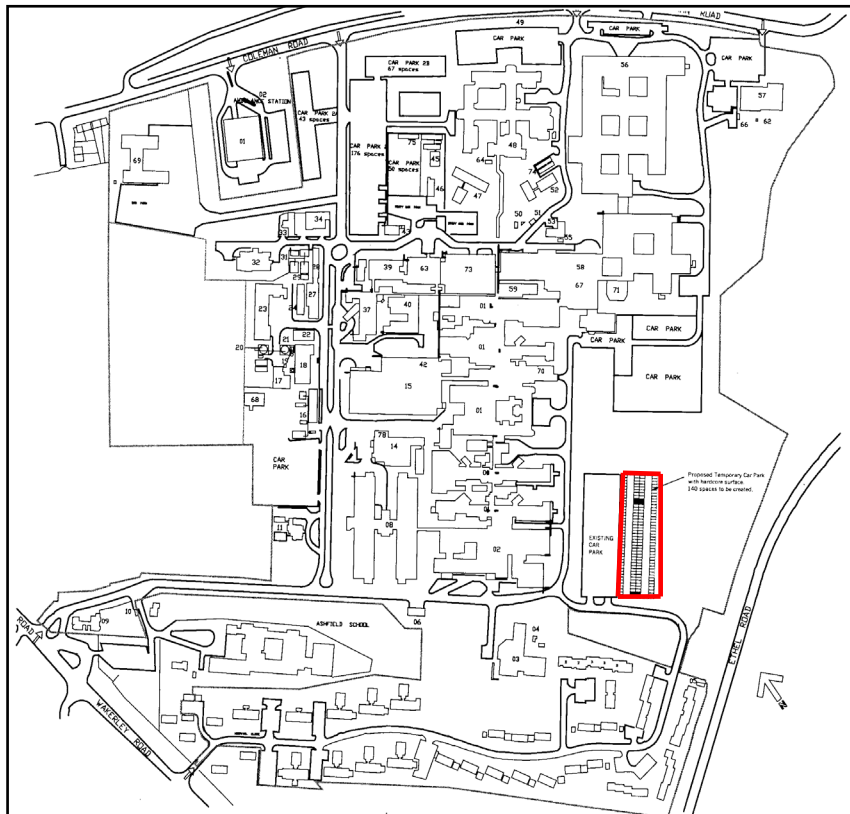


Figure 2 Proposed Development Area.
(Original Scale 1:2500, Supplied by Client)

3. Results

The proposed development area occupied a grassed area approximately 36m by 100m adjacent to Gwendolan Road. The site sloped down from the north-west to the south-east; a visual survey of the proposed development area prior to work commencing suggested very slight traces of ridge and furrow earthworks towards the north-easternmost part of the proposed development area.

The topsoil strip began in the westernmost corner of the proposed development area and worked down slope. Approximately 250mm to 300mm of topsoil was removed revealing a substratum of dark yellow and yellow-brown weathered clay. As the strip continued down slope, a line of concrete stanchions was exposed, perpendicular to Gwendolan Road. A second line of stanchions perpendicular to the first was also uncovered, indicating a recently removed fence line enclosing an area of approximately 265 sq metres. The amount of ground disturbance and modern debris within the fenced area indicates it had been recently used as a temporary work area, after which the topsoil had been re-instated. In all likelihood, any potential archaeological remains here would have been destroyed or at least severely truncated by these works.

As the strip progressed north-eastwards a small linear feature [001], aligned north-west to south-east and approximately 11.5 metres long was exposed. Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the surface of this feature along with several heat affected stones. A section was excavated through [001] and revealed a fill (002) that consisted of dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small charcoal flecks. Further sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered during excavation. The feature itself was very small, approximately 320mm wide and only 140mm deep.

The limited size of this feature along with the lack of any clear terminus suggests that [001] is the base of a larger, but significantly truncated linear feature, possibly a boundary ditch. The volume of pottery recovered from such a small feature, does however, suggest that the Romano-British settlement excavated to the north-west in 1999 may have at least partially continued to within or near to the proposed development area.

The recovered pottery suggests a terminal date in mid or late first century AD for this settlement activity (N. Cooper *pers. comm.*). Very little first century pottery was recovered during the 1999 excavation (Chapman 2000). However, it is unlikely that this feature represents earlier settlement activity. The absence of first century remains is more likely the result of later Romano-British truncation. The most likely reason for the early date of the pottery recovered in this watching brief is that the ditch was on the periphery of the settlement and was not, therefore, seriously truncated by later activity.

As the stripping continued north-eastwards nothing else of archaeological significance was revealed except a triangular shaped pit exposed approximately 25 metres from the northernmost corner of the proposed development area. Partial excavation of this pit recovered significant quantities of 19th/20th century ceramics, confirming a recent date as well as a single sherd of re-deposited Romano-British pottery, suggesting a possible continuation of the Romano-British settlement activity towards the northern edge of the proposed development area.

Towards the northern edge of the proposed development area a number of limestone outcrops were also observed, immediately below the topsoil. Further down slope (to the south-east) the under-lying substratum became considerably disturbed with evidence of made ground containing 19th/20th century ceramics, building material and other debris contained within re-deposited topsoil. However, because this disturbance was below the intended formation level, it was not possible to investigate further.

The area has a long history of limestone quarrying and the shallow depth of the limestone outcrops observed nearby, it is more than likely that this disturbed area is a backfilled limestone quarry. Two identifiable sherds of modern ceramics were retained, one bearing the partial lettering 'EVINGTON' and (INFIRM) 'ARY'. This is obviously a reference to the General Hospital, but these artefacts are difficult to date accurately. The second sherd had a partial "Farmers Arms" design. Although still produced until the middle of the 20th century, this design was most popular in the early part of the 19th century and may have been used along with other rubbish to backfill the quarry pit in the later part of the 19th century.

4. Conclusion

Although the groundworks covered by this watching brief were limited, some archaeological remains were recorded. This included a truncated Romano-British ditch, which contained first century Romano-British pottery along with a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. This may be associated with the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement excavated to the north-west (Chapman 2000).

Evidence of the area's lime burning past was also encountered with what appeared to be backfilled quarry pits and outcrops of limestone, immediately below the topsoil within the northernmost part of the proposed development area.

As a result of the shallow foundation level of the works and the building methods it is possible that deeper or un-observed archaeological deposits may still survive *in-situ*.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permatrace sheet containing site plan & section
- 10 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 10 digital images
- 1 A4 Contact sheet
- 7 A4 Watching brief sheets
- 1 Bag of Finds
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2010-021)
- Unbound copy of pottery report

The archive will be held by Leicester City Museums under the Accession Number A1. 2010.

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

5. References

Chapman, S. 2000. *An Archaeological Excavation of Iron Age and Romano Settlement at Leicester General Hospital, Crown Hills, Evington, Leicester (SK 621 041)*. ULAS Report 2000-041

Hunt, L. 2009. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Crown Hills Community College, Gwendolen Road, Crown Hills, Leicester (SK 617 038)*. ULAS Report 2009-086).

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Marsden, P. 1998. *An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Leicestershire Mental Health Trust EPD/HDU Facility, Leicester General Hospital, Crown Hills, Leicester (SK 621 041)*. ULAS Report 1998-115.

VCH 1958 'Parishes added since 1892: Evington', *A History of the County of Leicester: volume 4: The City of Leicester* (Victoria County History. 1958), pp. 434-438. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66592>

<http://www.uhl-tr.nhs.uk/patients/about-our-hospitals/leicester-general-hospital/lgh-history/palace-on-the-hill->

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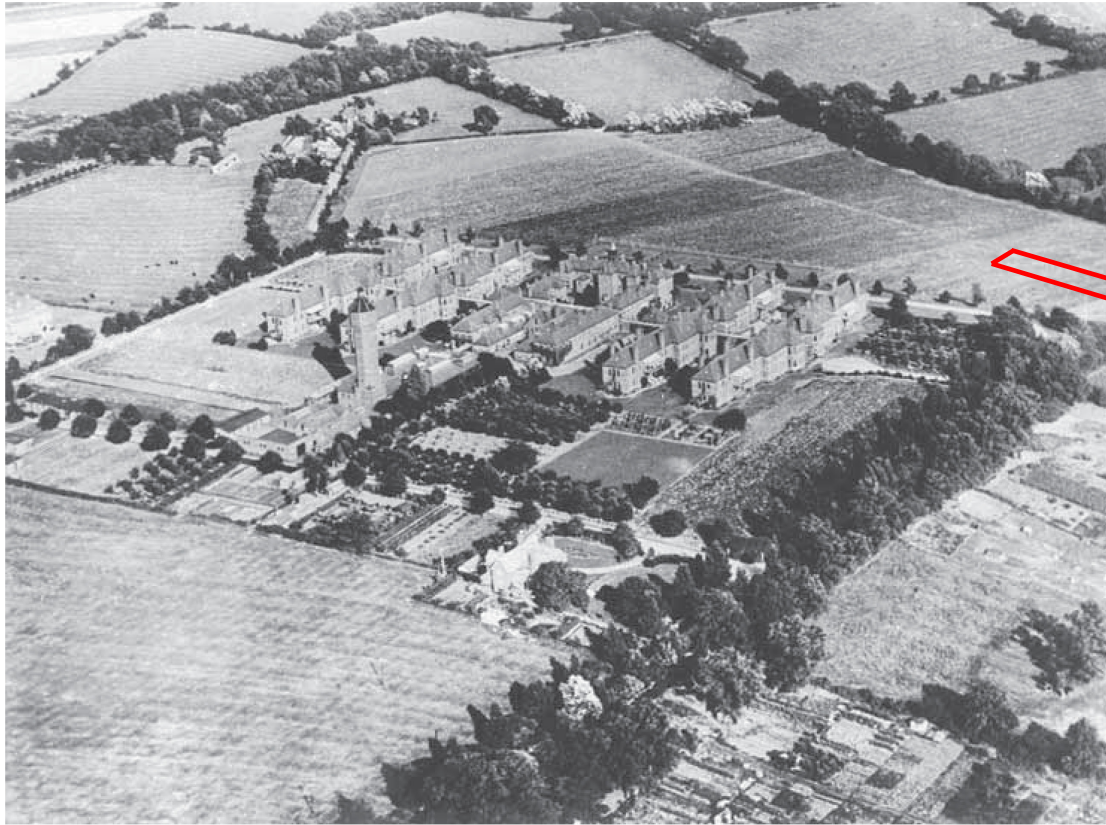


Figure 3 Mid-20th century aerial view.
(Development area approximately highlighted)

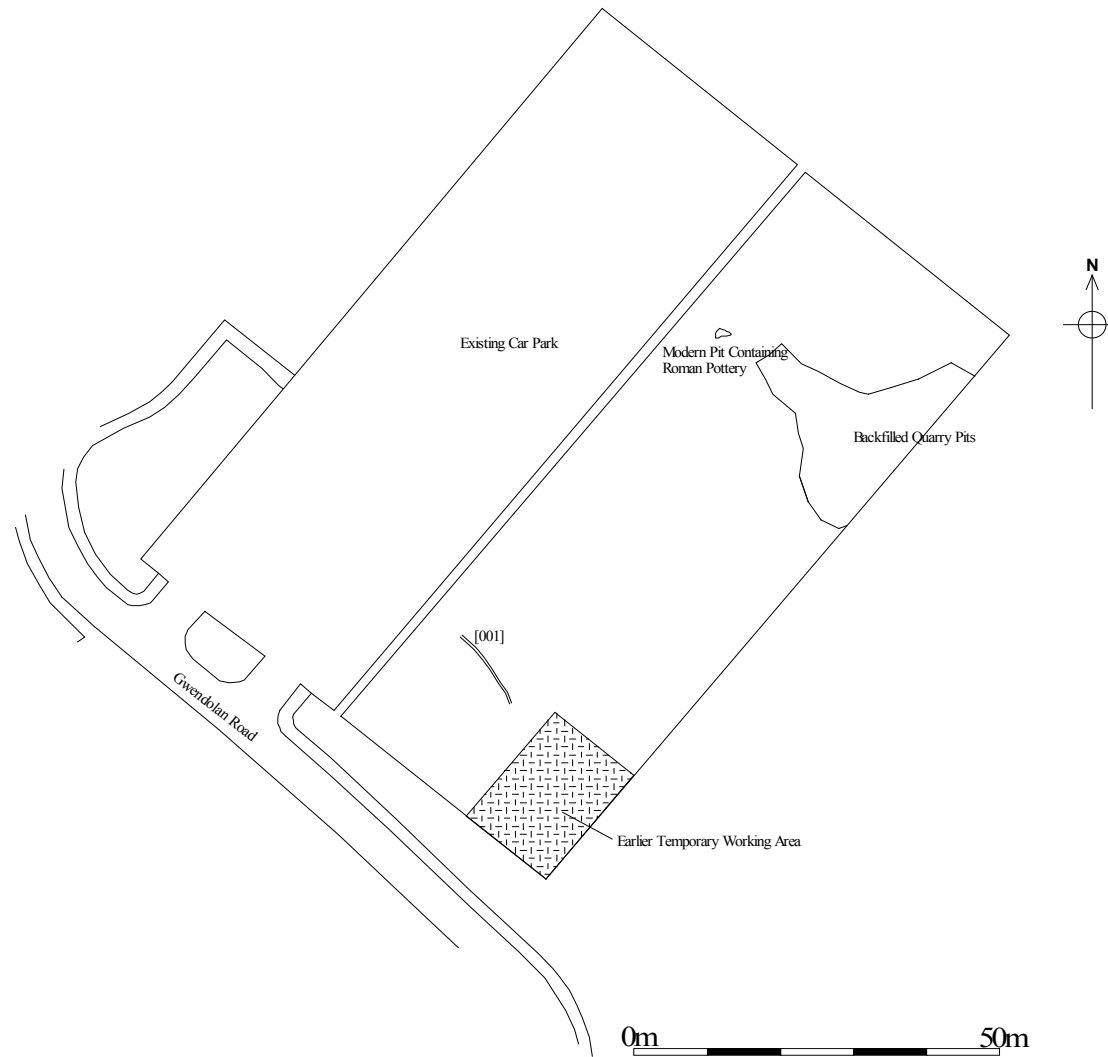


Figure 4 Site Plan.

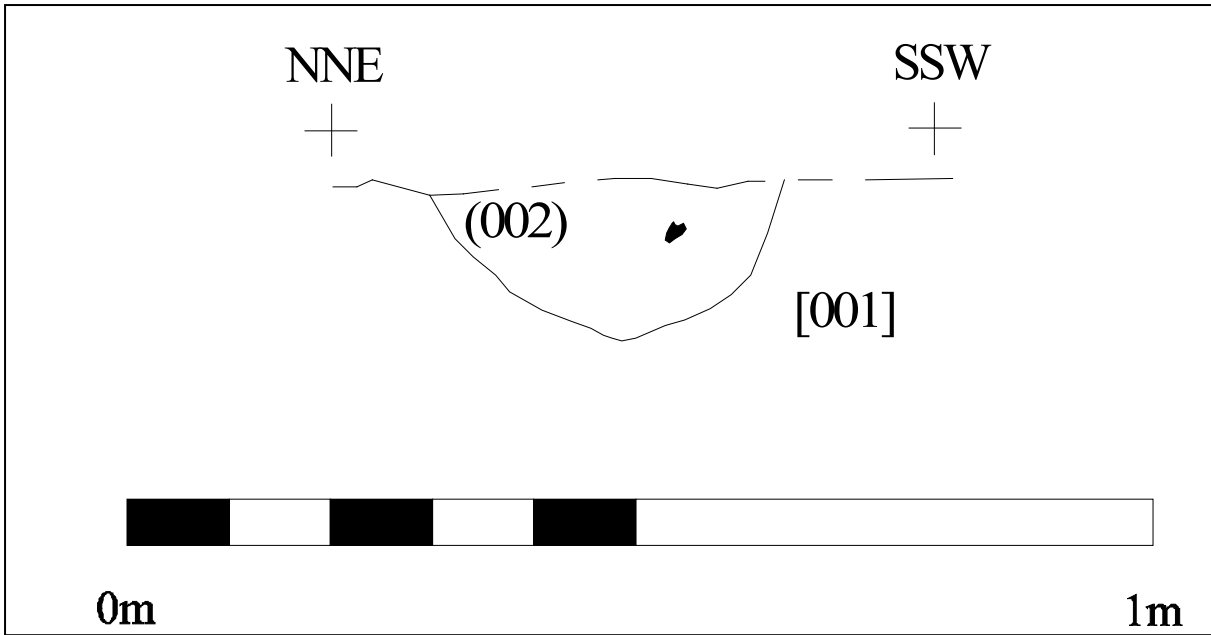


Figure 5 North-west facing section of [001].



Figure 6 North-west facing section of [001].

Appendix: The Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

The pottery, 20 sherds, weighing 204 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999; Marsden 1998; Sawday 1989). The results are shown below.

A single sherd of Iron Age pottery in the gully [1], context 2 was found with thirteen fragments of Roman pottery with a probable terminal date in mid or late first century AD (N. Cooper pers. comm.) These finds are not surprising given the location of a known Iron Age activity and Roman occupation nearby (Chapman 2000).

Six sherds of modern pottery, some decorated with transfer printed under glaze motifs including one with a pattern known as the 'The Farmer's Arms', another possibly referring to the infirmary at the General Hospital and a third labelled 'Evington', the name of the next village to the hospital, were found in unstratified contexts. With regard to the two latter sherds, the practice of especially commissioning pottery for specific institutions such as hospitals and hotels was, and is, a not uncommon occurrence in modern times

Bibliography

Chapman, S., 2000 'Crown Hills, General Hospital' *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **74**, 228-229.

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Marsden, P., 1998 'The prehistoric pottery' in M. Beamish 'A Middle Iron Age Site At Wanlip, Leicestershire, *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **72**, 1-92, (44-62).

Sawday, D., 1989 'The post Roman pottery', in J.N. Lucas, 'An excavation in the north east quarter of Leicester: Elbow Lane, 1977', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **63**, 18-47, (28-41).

Site/ Parish: Crown Hills, Leicester General Hospital. Accession No.: A1 2010 Document Ref: general hospital1.docx Material: pottery & misc. finds Site Type: Iron Age/Roman/Mod. Hospital	Submitter: G. Richards Identifier: D. Sawday/N. Cooper Date of Identification: 2/1/10 Method of Recovery: wb Job Number: 09-680
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Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
IRON AGE/ROMAN POTTERY				
2 [1] gully	IA - Iron Age	1	16	Body sherd, abraded
2 [1]	GW – Grey ware	9	118	Jar rim & body fragments
2 [1]	OW – Oxidised ware	1	2	Jar rim
2 [1]	CG – Calcite Gritted	1	3	
2 [1]	GT – Grog Tempered ware	2	22	
MODERN POTTERY				
U/S	EA10 –White Earthenware	6	43	With black & white transfer printed words and patterns under glaze including a body

				sherd with motifs from 'The Farmers Arms' including part of the epithet 'GOD SPEED THE PLOUGH' and another sherd with, 'EVINGTON' & another with '(INFIRM) 'ARY'.
MISCELLANEOUS				
U/S	Copper Alloy	1		Shallow circular dish or pan with short hollow socket, probably for the insertion of a wooden handle and inscribed willow pattern style decoration on interior base.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological watching brief

*Leicester General Hospital, Coleman Road, Leicester
(SK 623 038)*

P.A. 20082052

Planning Authority: Leicester City Council

For: Leicester General Hospital

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification is for archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new temporary car park at Leicester General Hospital, Coleman Road, Leicester (SK 623 038) for Leicester General Hospital.

1.2 It addresses the requirements for archaeological evaluation from the City Archaeologist, Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to the planning authority following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30).

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicester* (Leicester City Council).

2. Background

2.1. The proposed development is for a new temporary Car park. The Leicester City Historic Environment record indicates that the area is in the vicinity of known archaeological remains including Iron Age and Roman settlement and a possible Roman Villa. A watching brief with control of machining is now required to confirm the extent of archaeological remains impacted on by the development and record them as appropriate.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation:

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 groundworks.
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 supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. The removal overburden will be by machine with a flat bladed bucket.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

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

4.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.6 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicester City Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicester City Council.

4.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for additional 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 developer, the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council, and the planning authority. 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 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 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.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicester City 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 investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks currently scheduled for w.c 11.01.2010. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

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 2007) 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

Brown, D., *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives*
2008 (Institute for Archaeologists)

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21.12.2009



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 Luton Newcastle Rayleigh & Stafford

Drawing Status: (Preliminary, Tender, Construction, Record)
APPROVAL

Client
LEICESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL

Project
CAR PARK EXTENSION

Title
SITE PLAN

Date 08/09/08	Drawn By CW	Checked By GVTH
Drawing Number LE08125_03	Rev	Scale at A3 1:2500

File Name
 E:\DATA\1008\1008125_03\08125_03_01.dwg

Fig 1 Site location

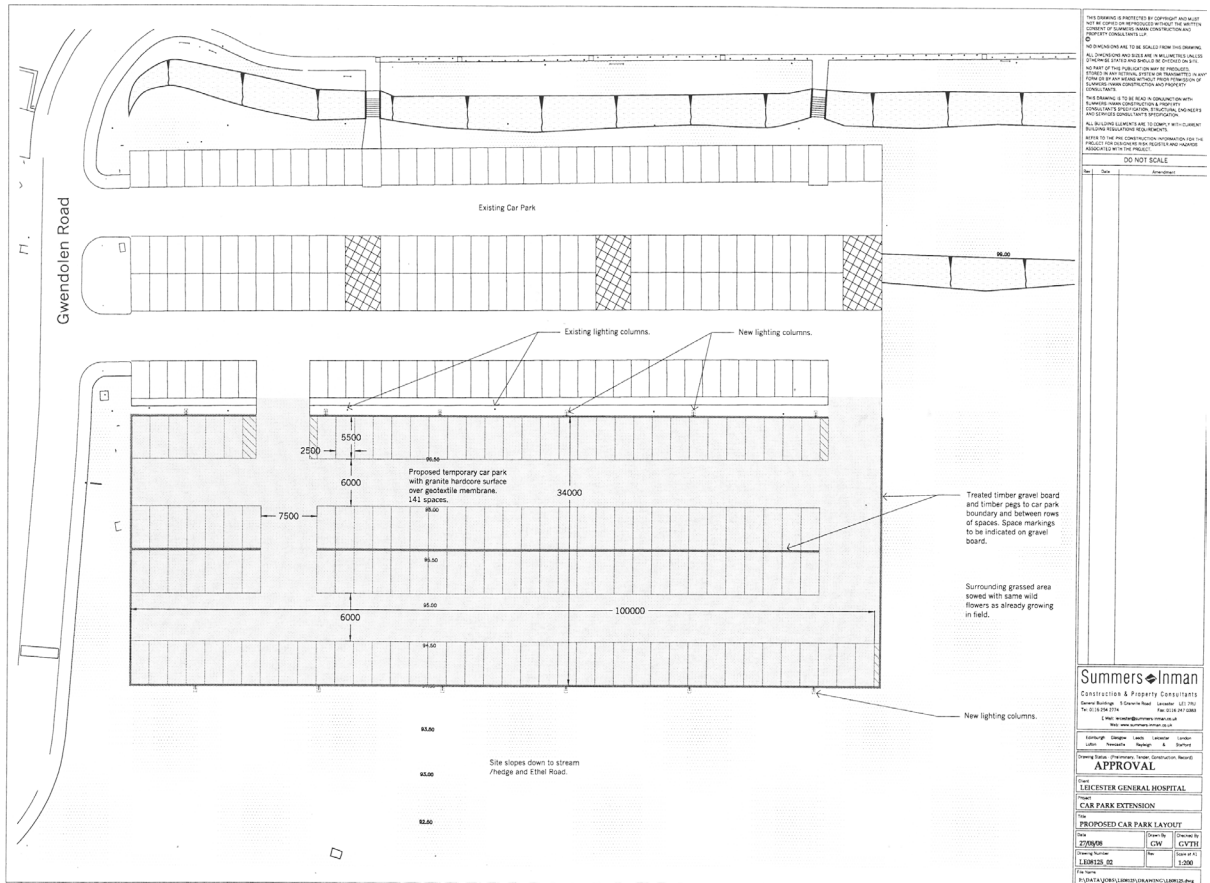


Fig 2 Carpark layout

Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

*Leicester General Hospital, Coleman Road, Leicester
(SK 623 038)*

P.A. 20082052

Planning Authority: Leicester City Council

For: Leicester General Hospital

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for trial trenching. 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 machine dug trial trenching 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 Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, 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 Accidents to children on construction sites

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

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. 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.

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.

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.

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

11.03.2009

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