



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and  
Record Exercise at the Three Crowns  
Inn, High Street, Somerby,  
Leicestershire.  
NGR: SK 766 105**

Andrew Hyam



ULAS Report No. 2010-066  
©2010

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Exercise**

**At the Three Crowns Inn,**

**Main Street, Somerby,**

**Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SK 766 105**

**Andrew Hyam**

**For: Summerfish Developments Ltd**

Approved by

Signed:



Date: 08.04.2010

Name: Patrick Clay

**University of Leicester**

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

**ULAS Report Number 2010-66**

©2010

**Accession Number XA.75.2009**

## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Background .....	2
Objectives .....	2
Methodology .....	2
Results .....	3
Discussion .....	4
Archive .....	5
Publication .....	5
Acknowledgements .....	5
Bibliography .....	5
Appendix 1. Figures .....	6
Appendix 2 OASIS Summary .....	12
Appendix 3. ULAS Design Specification .....	13

## FIGURES

Figure 1 Location of Somerby .....	6
Figure 2 Layout of buildings prior to development work .....	7
Figure 3 Architect's plan of new buildings .....	8
Figure 4 Courtyard and upper car park before development .....	9
Figure 5 Upper car park before development .....	9
Figure 6 Semi-detached foundations .....	10
Figure 7 Excavating detached house foundations .....	11
Figure 8 Detached house foundations .....	12

## **An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Exercise at the Three Crowns Inn, Main Street, Somerby, Leicestershire. NGR: SK 766 105**

**Andrew Hyam**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological strip map and record exercise was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Three Crowns Inn, High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire. The work took place between the 20th of November 2009 and the 1st of April 2010 in advance of the construction of three houses and a garage on the former car park belonging to the inn. The development site lies within the historic core of the village and is close to the village church. Earlier archaeological work for this development involved a Level 2 survey of the 18th and 19th century inn buildings and this report forms the final stage of the work. The results of an initial topsoil and overburden strip were observed, followed by the excavation of the house foundations. A large central area of recently disturbed subsoil was noted within the development area but no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the work.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A.75.2009*

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning), para 30, this document forms the report for an archaeological strip map and record exercise to the rear of the Three Crowns Inn Somerby where three houses are being constructed. A level 2 survey of the existing buildings has already taken place (ULAS Report 2009-053) and this report covers the second phase of development taking place in the former beer garden and car park of the old pub. The Three Crowns Inn is located at the eastern end of High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 776 105). As well as the conversion of the existing pub and ancillary buildings Summerfish Developments Limited have planning permission to construct a detached house, a pair of semi-detached houses and a garage. When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, recommended that due to the change of use and the construction of new buildings within the historic core of the village, a programme of archaeological monitoring should take place.

The village of Somerby lies approximately 8km to the south of the market town of Melton Mowbray and 16km to the north-east of Leicester (fig. 1). The Three Crowns Inn is located towards the eastern end of High Street on the corner with Church Lane. The site lies at a height of approximately 180m above OD.

## **Background**

The Three Crowns Inn forms a group of buildings facing onto the corner of High Street and Church Lane and surrounds a central courtyard which opens to the south-east and combined beer garden and car park beyond (fig. 2). The history and background of the site has already been discussed in the building survey report and are therefore not included here.

As well as the conversion of the former Three Crowns Inn there is a separate planning application to construct three dwellings to the rear of the Inn. The three dwellings consist of a single detached house in the former garden area in the western part of the site with a single garage located in the south eastern corner and a pair of semi-detached houses running from north to south across the rear car park and the existing rear east to west outhouses (fig. 3). The Ordnance Survey maps show a small building attached to the southern boundary wall approximately where the southern end of the semi detached houses are to be built. This small structure is last shown on the 1:2500 OS map published in 1974 and scars can be seen on the boundary wall where the building once stood. A second small structure is shown on the same OS maps and is located half way along the western boundary wall. It would also appear that the existing curved wall from the gateway on Church Lane extended southwards to join the southern boundary wall. By the time of the current development both of these buildings have been removed and much of the curved wall has also been demolished to create a large car park with a small garden and lawn area along the eastern boundary (figs. 4 and 5). The new development requires that a substantial part of the curved stone wall will be demolished and that the southernmost east to west barns will also be demolished.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the strip map and record exercise as specified in the ULAS Design Specification were:

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

## **Methodology**

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the specified works. Initially it was proposed to open some initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site was to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance being located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching would be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

If no archaeological deposits were identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden was greater than 0.15m, there would be no requirement for the whole site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

## **Results**

Initially, in order to provide adequate space for the semi-detached houses, the east to west lean-to barn at the southern end of the western barns was demolished. This proved to be constructed from a mix of ironstone and brick as noted in the building survey report. The foundations of the side walls of this building appeared to be very shallow and less than 0.2m deep. They were not constructed on an earlier foundation.

### *The semi-detached house foundations*

Prior to this programme of development this area was covered in mill-waste granite chippings with a gentle slope down from south to north. There was no indication of any of the demolished buildings noted in the background section above. Removal of the mill-waste revealed a mixed deposit of orange-brown sandy-clay across the whole area of the foundations. Sample excavation into this indicated that it varied in depth between 0.2m and 0.3m and was on top of a dark grey ashy layer on top of a mid-orange brown sandy clay natural substratum with frequent lumps of ironstone. The mixed layer contained a variety of early to mid- 20th century glass bottles and glazed jars. Removal of accumulated debris to the west of the foundations revealed a single layer of bricks probably relating to the demolished building attached to the western boundary wall.

Excavation of the remainder of the semi-detached plot foundations indicated that the whole area had been landscaped down to the natural substratum to create a level area with the loss of any overlying deposits which may have been present (fig. 6). The disturbed area appeared to respect the outline of the now demolished east to west lean-to barns which must therefore be of an earlier date. At the northern end of the foundation trenches no trace could be seen of the demolished building along the southern boundary which may suggest that it was an open-fronted structure with two side walls. There was no indication of any surviving floor or occupation layers in this area. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the semi-detached house foundation area.

### *The detached house foundations*

Most of the area for the detached house, located along the eastern site boundary, had until recently been the public house beer garden and was laid out as a small garden and lawn with a large holly tree to the south which is subject to a tree preservation order. In order to dig the foundations the partial demolition of the stone boundary wall was necessary. Therefore, instead of an initial strip across the centre of the foundations, the topsoil level was reduced across the site and a 1m wide strip down to

the natural substratum was excavated around the perimeter of the stone wall prior to its demolition. The level of the mid orange brown sandy clay natural appeared to be at the same height as the adjacent road level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this stripped area.

During the subsequent demolition of the wall along Church Lane it could be seen that the wall foundations were cutting approximately 0.3-0.4m into the natural substratum and that the existing beer garden level was approximately 1m above the adjacent road level. Changes in the pointing of the wall where it entered the car park from Church Lane indicated that it had been rebuilt relatively recently. During demolition this was confirmed as it was found to be standing on a thick concrete foundation with fragments of modern brick embedded within it. The topsoil in the beer garden area appeared to have been extensively disturbed leaving only about 0.1m of dark orange brown clay sand subsoil. The excavation of the foundations for the detached house did not reveal any evidence of any archaeological deposits or features within the development area (figs. 7 and 8).

#### *The garage*

The garage was located in the south-eastern corner of the plot adjacent to the gable end of a barn belonging to the farm to the south of the development site. The existing stone boundary wall is to be left intact. As the garage was to be built on a raft the foundations were reasonably shallow at around 0.75m in depth. The topsoil and dark orange brown clay sand subsoil were stripped away to expose the natural substrate which appeared to be undisturbed. No evidence of any archaeological features or deposits were observed during this foundation work.

#### *The cellar*

During the course of this programme of work the opportunity was taken to inspect the cellar belonging to the existing buildings. The cellar is located beneath the lower courtyard directly behind the High Street range rear extension and can be seen as a slight north to south hump in the centre of the tarmac. Access to the cellar ramp is inside the modern brick built structure attached to the rear toilets of the High Street range. During the building survey this building, used as a gas store, was locked which prevented any inspection. The cellar is built of brick and forms a single curved vault with a small roof vent at the northern end against the High Street extension. A shallow thrall for barrels has been built around the southern and eastern walls.

### **Discussion**

Despite the potential for the presence of archaeological features within the development area nothing was observed during the course of the work. It could be expected that there may be buildings fronting onto Church Lane as there are on the opposite side of the road but this would not appear to have been the case. It is interesting to note that the present road level is at the same height as the top of the natural substratum with the result that the surrounding land is much higher.

The lack of any archaeological deposits, or any trace of structures, within the site could be due to the landscaping and dumping episode seen in the area of the two semi-detached houses. This appears to have taken place at some stage during the early

to mid- 20th century. Alternatively this area could always have been an open space for a farmyard.

### **Archive**

The archive consists of:

This report,

6 pro-forma watching brief record sheets,

2 digital photographic record sheets of 48 pictures,

2 Contact sheets of digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographic images.

### **Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. Oasis is an online index to archaeological grey literature reports.

### **Acknowledgements**

The fieldwork was undertaken by A R Hyam. The project was managed by Dr P Clay.

### **Bibliography**

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

University of Leicester Archaeological Services. *Design Specification for*  
*Archaeological Work: Three Crowns Inn, High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire.*

University of Leicester Archaeological Services. *An Historic Building Analytical*  
*(Level 2) at the Three Crowns Inn, High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire.* ULAS  
Report 2009-053

A R Hyam  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

[ah58@le.ac.uk](mailto:ah58@le.ac.uk)

08.04.2010



## Appendix 1. Figures



Figure 1 Location of Somerby

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 10009495

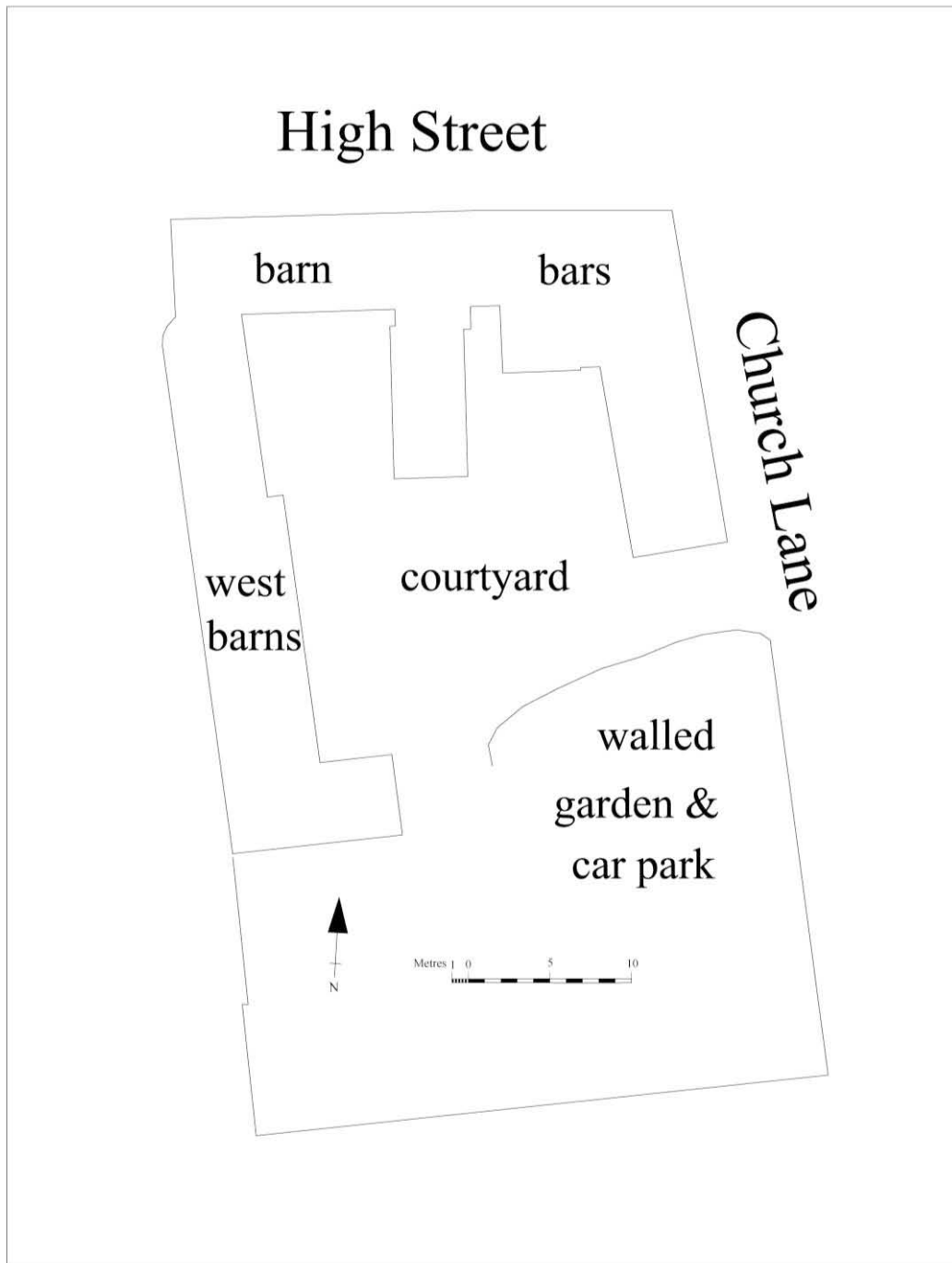


Figure 2 Layout of buildings prior to development work

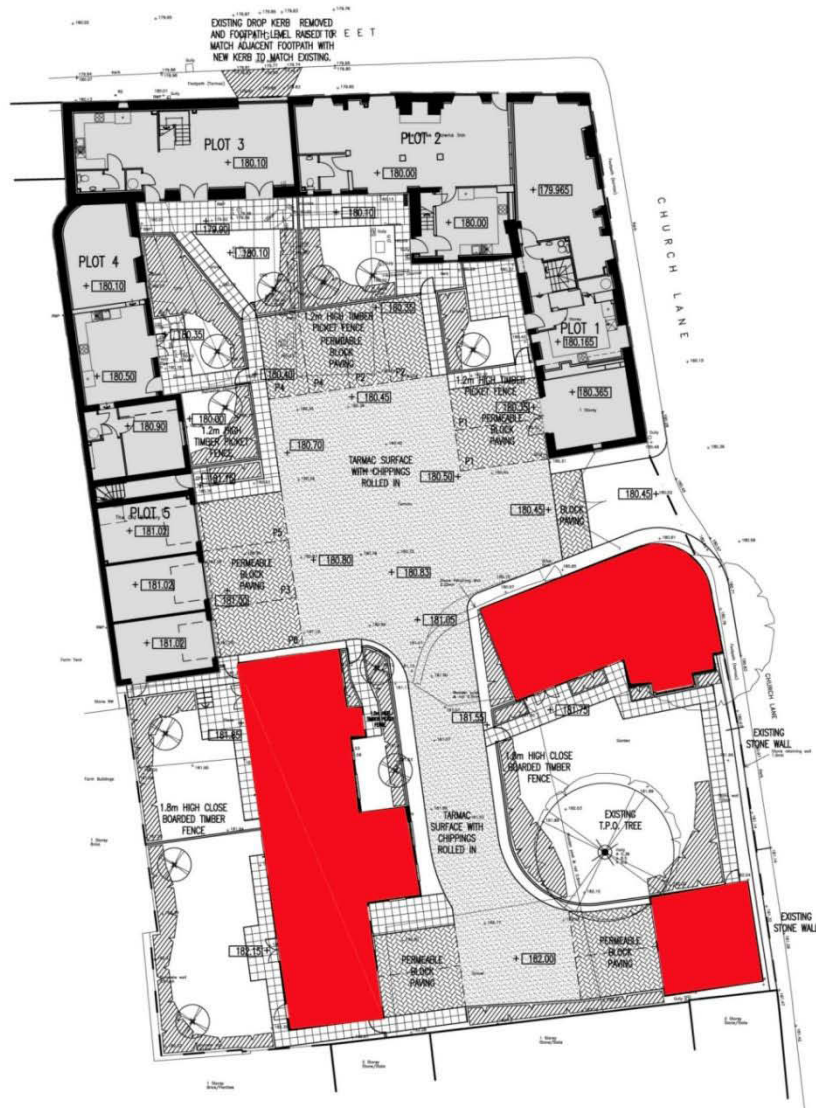


Figure 3 Architect's plan of new buildings  
New buildings shown in red. Modified from Anthony Rickett Architects Ltd drawing.



Figure 4 Courtyard and upper car park before development  
Lean-to stone barn and curving stone wall shown before demolition. Looking SW.



Figure 5 Upper car park before development  
Looking South west.



Figure 6 Semi-detached foundations  
Disturbed upper layers visible above black band of redeposited material.  
Looking south east.



Figure 7 Excavating detached house foundations  
After demolition of wall and site strip around perimeter of site. Looking north.



Figure 8 Detached house foundations  
Looking south

## Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

Project Name	Three Crowns Inn, Somerby, Leicestershire
Project Type	Strip, plan and record
Project Manager	A Hyam
Project Supervisor	P Clay
Previous/Future work	Building Survey (completed)
Current Land Use	Public House/car park
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG15
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 776 105
Start/end dates of field work	20.11.2009 – 1.4.2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	Approx 1700 square metres

## **Appendix 3. ULAS Design Specification**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

#### **Design Specification for Archaeological Work**

**Site: Three Crowns Inn, High Street, Somerby,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR SK 776 105**

**Client: Summerfish Developments Ltd**

**Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council**

**Planning Permission: 07/00716/6**

#### **Non-Technical Summary**

This document represents a design specification for archaeological building recording work for: The Three Crowns Inn, High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire. The design specification addresses the requirements of Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority as detailed in their advice letter of 13.07.2008 and follows the guidelines as laid out in the *Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Standing Buildings or Structures* and *archaeological watching briefs (IfA S&G)*.

#### **1. Site Location**

1.1 The former inn is to the north of Main Street, Somerby, in Melton District, Leicestershire at NGR SK 776 105.

#### **2. Planning Background**

2.1 The planning application (07/00712/FUL) involves the change of use of public house to a five bedroom guest house and conversion of outbuildings into house, garages and flat. The erection of three new dwellings, one re-using the existing boundary stone wall. In consequence, the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) has recommended the need for a record of the building equivalent to a Level 2 survey, as defined by English Heritage (*Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage 2006). This should be undertaken before work starts, and is secured by condition on the approved planning application followed by a strip map and record exercise in the area of the new dwellings.

#### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

3.1 The Three Crowns Inn appears to be a group of C18th/C19th buildings, probably originally a farm complex. The complex appears to be fairly complete, and in addition to its use as a farm may feature interesting elements from its time as a public house. It is not a Listed building.

#### **4 Aims and objectives**

4.1 The aim of the building recording is to complete an appropriate level of historic building recording of the affected structures and their setting. This will pay specific attention to those elements where demolition/conversion and/or alteration are proposed. The work should be undertaken to a standard that will allow the future interpretation of the buildings within the context for which they were originally designed as well as later uses

4.2 The aim of the strip map and record exercise is to:

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

#### **5. Methodology**

##### **5.1 Building Recording**



5.1.1 The building recording will produce a record of all areas of fabric that are to be removed, irreversibly altered or demolished to English Heritage level 2 (2006) prior to the commencement of demolition.

5.1.2 The building recording written account will be in accordance with level 2 items 1-7 (4-7 in summary form specifically as they relate to the areas being removed or altered). Sufficient details of physical evidence will be provided to validate interpretations.

5.1.3 The building recording drawn records will be in accordance with level 2 items 2-6 specifically as they relate to the areas of fabric being removed; item 2 will be a general ground floor plan at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100. Unusual constructional features will be recorded in greater detail at specified scales of between 1:1 to 1:50 where appropriate.

5.1.4 The building recording photographic records will be in accordance with level 2 items 1-6 and should cover all general areas specifically the areas of fabric being removed. Items 1-4 and 6 will be as appropriate to the areas of loss and alteration. All areas will be placed within the visual context of the site as a whole and a record will be provided of the interior and exterior of the building within the parameters of Health and Safety, to demonstrate its current form. The primary record will be in Black and white print and colour transparency format supplemented with digital and colour prints as appropriate.

5.1.5 The buildings assessment will be undertaken following the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct and will adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. (IFA S&G). The building will be examined under ULAS Health and Safety Policy (*ULAS Health and Safety Policy Statement and Health and Safety Manual*). A risks assessment form will be completed prior to and updated during the visit.

5.1.6 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to the Client and his representatives, the Conservation Officer, Melton Borough Council, the Team Leader of the Heritage and Resources Team, Leicestershire County Council subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one week's notice will be given prior to commencement of the recording work in order that monitoring arrangements can be made. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.

## **5.2 Archaeological strip, map and record exercise**

5.2.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open some initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

5.2.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in an initial trial trench, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the site is to be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

5.2.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

5.2.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

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

5.2.6 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.

5.2.7 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.

5.2.8 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.

5.2.9 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 developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

5.2.10 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 Leicestershire County Council.

5.2.11 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 developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

## **6 Recording Systems**

6.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

6.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **7. Report Preparation**

7.1 The reports will contain as a minimum:  
non-technical summaries  
introductory statements  
aims and purpose of the survey/strip map and record exercise  
methodologies  
an objective summary statement of results  
supporting illustrations at appropriate scales  
supporting data, tabulated or in appendices

7.2 The reports will be in A4 format and copies will be sent to the Client, LCC HNET, HER and Conservation Officer for Melton Borough council.

## **8. Copyright**

8.1 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.

## **9. Health and Safety**

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy (2007) and FAME (SCAUM) Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. 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.

9.2 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

## **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. Monitoring arrangements**

11.1 The production of the assessments will be monitored by the ULAS project manager.

11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the *IFA S&G: DBA* (section 3.5).

## **12 Bibliography**

Department of the Environment/Department of National Heritage, 1994. *Planning policy guidance 15: planning and the historic environment*

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999. *By-laws, standards and policy statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists*

Patrick Clay  
Director  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

© ULAS 24/02/2009

## ULAS Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**W:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9**