

**An Archaeological Watching Brief of an
outbuilding situated within the curtilage of the
Grade II listed building of Church Farm,
Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SK 303 038)
10/07/2006.**

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Planning application no 03/00883/LBC

Clients: James Bailey Planning

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire.

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Orton-on-the-Hill in 2006 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of James Bailey Planning. Despite the fact the proposed development area lay within the historic medieval core of the village, the watching brief uncovered no evidence of archaeological remains. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number X.A8. 2007.

1: Introduction

1.1 In accordance with Planning and Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning) and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), section 2, a watching brief was undertaken during ground works in advance of the conversion of a single storey, corrugated iron-roofed brick structure into residential accommodation. The work follows the brief as produced by the Senior Planning Archaeologist in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Leicestershire County Council.

1.2 This work was carried out as part of an Archaeological Impact Assessment as recommended by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for the Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority. The site lies within the historic medieval core of the village of Orton-on-the-Hill. .

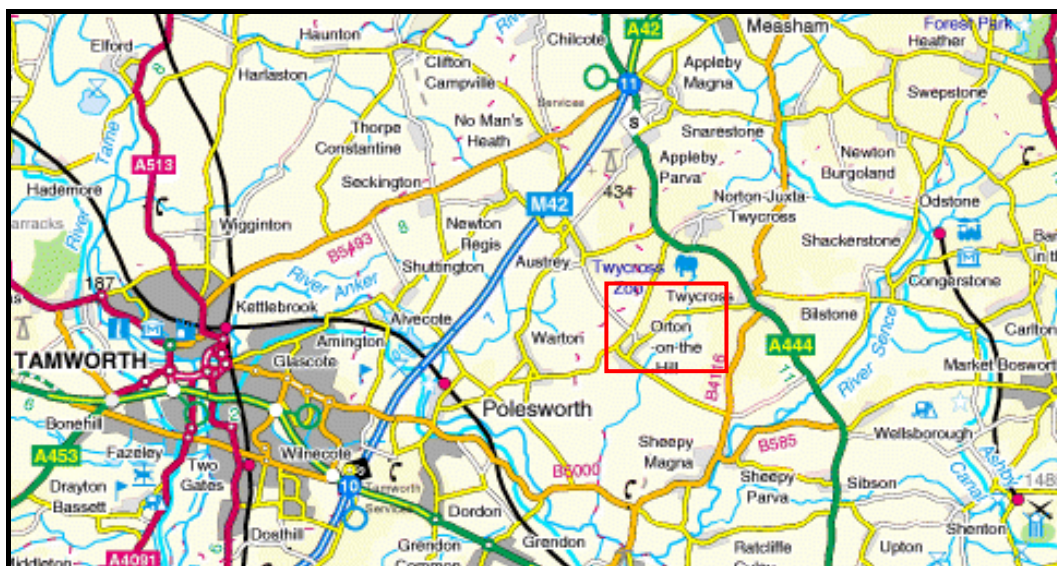


Figure 10 Location of Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (Location in red)

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

2: Site Location

2.1: The village of Orton-on-the-Hill is situated in an elevated position overlooking a broad valley lying due west of the village containing the three rivers Tame, Mease and Anker, all three being tributary rivers of the Trent. For much of its distance, the western boundary of Orton parish forms the county boundary between Leicestershire and Warwickshire. The nearest historic market centres are Atherstone, Warwickshire, 9.7kms, (6 miles) to the south-west and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 14.5kms (9 miles) to the north-east, (see Fig.1 Location : Orton-on-the-Hill, page 2). The site lies adjacent to the south-west boundary of St Edith's Church yard and is situated in the central area of the historic, medieval and post-medieval village of Orton-on-the-Hill. The curtilage of Church Farm forms the western boundary of The Green and, for part of its length, the north-east wall of the building that is the subject of this report forms the boundary with the churchyard, (see Fig. 2 Site Location : Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, p.3.)

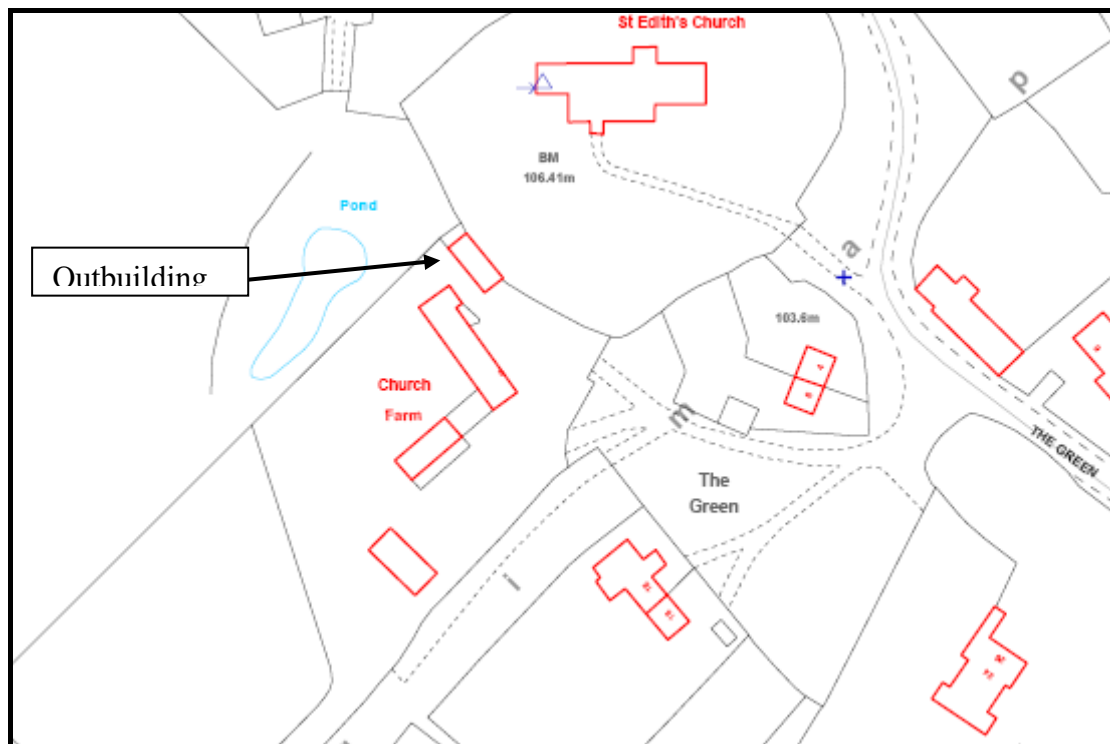


Figure 11 Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, outbuilding indicated.

3: Background

3.1: Orton on the Hill (also formerly called Wortone or Overtone), from its high situation on a hill overlooking four counties, is a parish in the Sparkenhoe Hundred, Leicestershire. Orton adjoins Morebarne, Sheepy and Newhouse Grange on the south, Appleby and Austrey to the east. The Domesday Book records it as in the possession of Henry the Earl Ferrers with six ploughs. This was one of the 35 lordships bestowed

upon the Earl Ferrers by William who later ceded Orton (Overton) and Morebarne to the Cistercian abbey of Merevale.

3.2: In Tudor times, according to John Nichols' survey, the manor belonged to the Bradshaw family, a citation of Robert Bradshaw being made in 1579. The diocesan census of 1564 records 31 families in the parish. In 1588 Robert Bradshaw owned the manor and the grange at Morebarne. The Knights Templar and the manor of Warton also held lands in the parish. Norton's population increased from the 16 or so families listed in 1564 to the 40 inhabitants assessed for the hearth tax in 1664 (an estimated total population of around 200). By the time of the Parliamentary census of 1801, Norton contained 59 families comprised of a total of 283 inhabitants occupying 54 houses - the largest proportion of them engaged in agriculture with a handful in trades and manufacturing. Nichols provides a brief transcript of Norton's Enclosure Award from 1749, listing 28 landholders starting with Charles Jennens, the lord of the manor, and John Clayton the rector, who received £129 in lieu of his glebe. The award describes 1,744 acres of which 377 acres of heath, waste and commons were apparently 'of little or no value'. The list probably includes all of the principal landholders, Henry Vernon, Joshua Croxall, Thomas Ellen, George Moore Esq, William Blower and Isaac Pearson among others. A copy of this document can be seen in the Leicestershire Record Office [DE QS 47/1/1-2] together with the Tithe Award from 1749 [DE 76/DT.1/63] and a Tithe Map from 1844 [DT 1/63]. Not long after enclosure, in 1786, most of the old Orton Hall was taken down and rebuilt. According to the parliamentary census of 1792 there were 330 inhabitant and 58 dwellings, as compared to only three houses in Orton Parva. According to the parliamentary census returns the population decreased to 303 inhabitants by 1801, and 279 inhabitants by 1811.

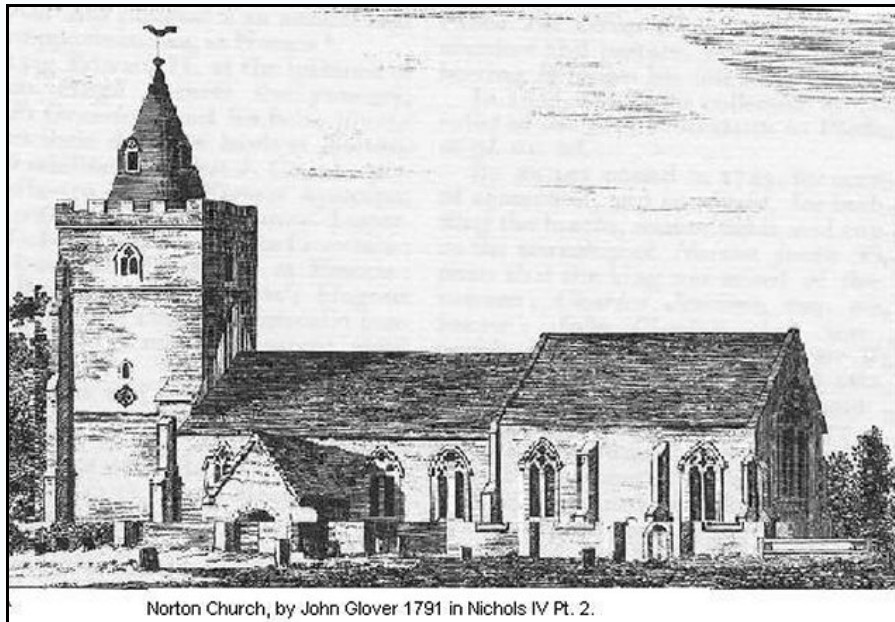


Figure 12 Orton-on-the-Hill church, St Edith's.

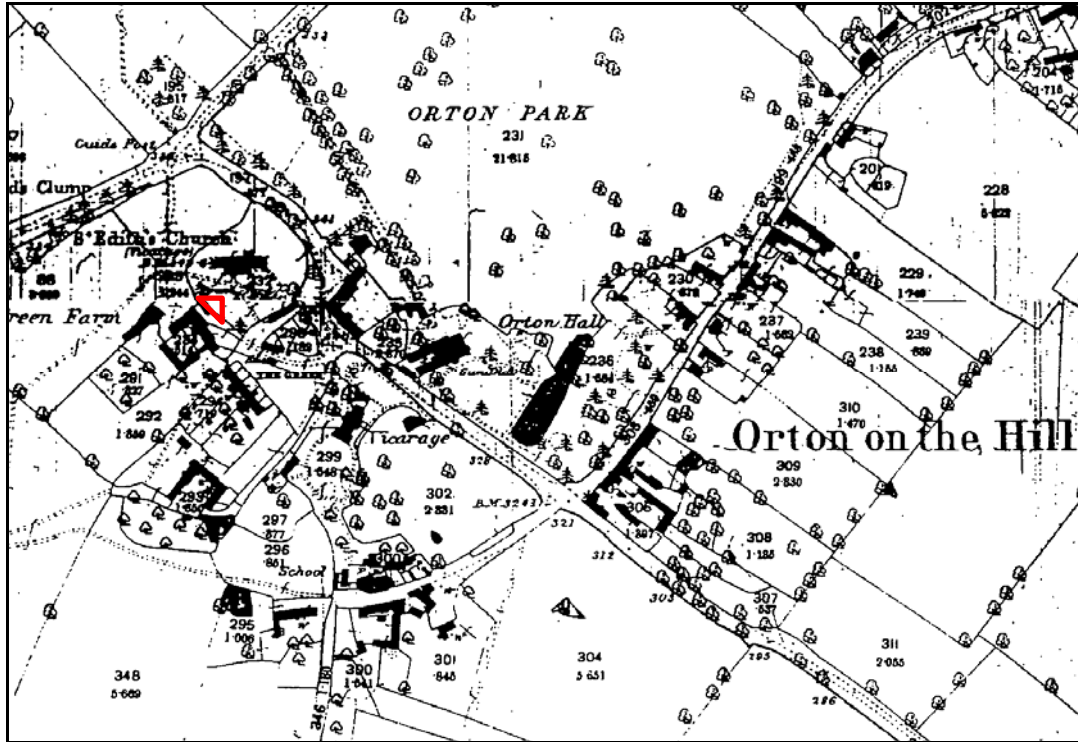


Figure 13 Orton-on-the-Hill 1886 Ordnance Survey. Building in red.

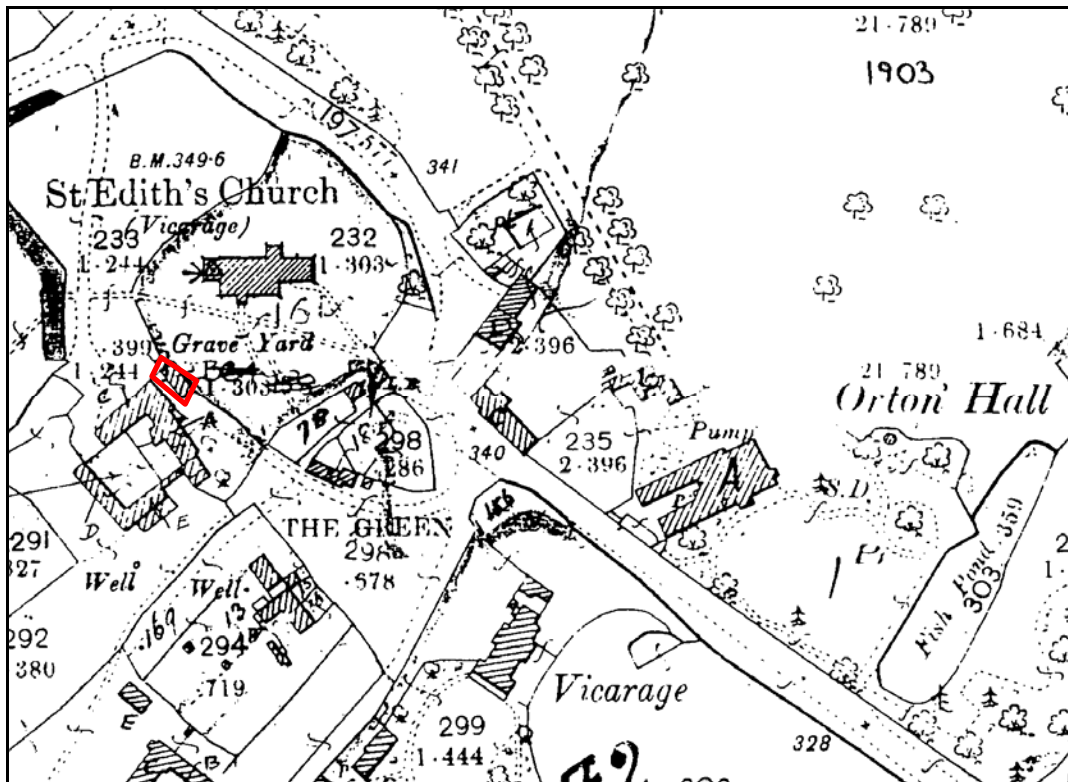


Figure 14 Orton-on-the-Hill 1903 Ordnance Survey. Building in red.

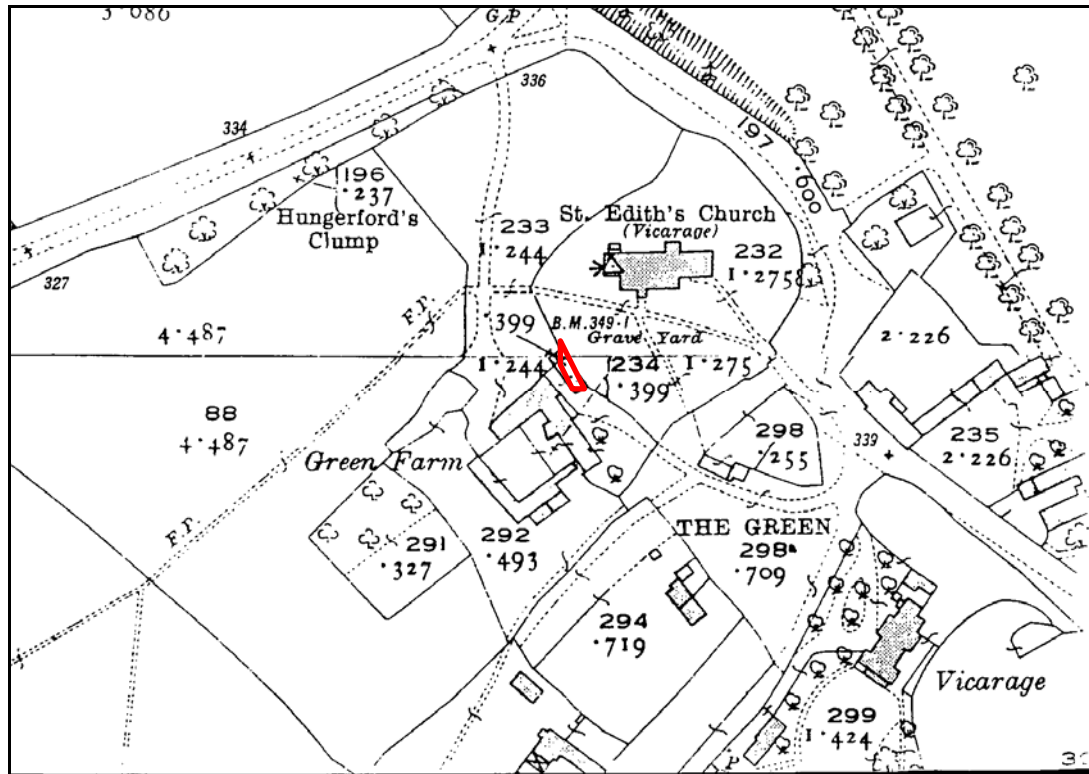


Figure 15 Orton-on-the-Hill 1924 Ordnance Survey. Building in red.

4: Previous Archaeological Investigations

4'1: Two prior watching briefs have taken place within Orton-on-the-Hill. These took place during 1999 and 2000 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The first, undertaken in 1999 by Michael Derrick and Sally Warren, produced old road surfaces but no other archaeological evidence. The second watching brief, by Sally Anne Smith in 2001, found no archaeological evidence.

5: Archaeological Objectives

5.1: The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to ascertain whether any archaeological deposits were present following the Design Specification for Archaeological Work at Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (ULAS, Appendix 1). In summary, these were as follows

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the nature, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundwork's.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5.2: All work was undertaken in accord with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhering to their *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The work also was in accordance with the Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*.

5.3: The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 10th of July 2006 by Sam Bocoock. A single visit was sufficient to observe all the groundwork being conducted.

6: Methods

6.1 The site had already been stripped and cleared prior to the commencement of the watching brief. This was only a minor clearance and involved the removal of topsoil and concrete flooring. Previously the area had been used as a yard and outbuilding and was in a neglected state.

6.2: The excavation of the trenches of the foundations for the commercial property was completed with a wheeled JCB excavator using a 0.45m toothed bucket for the foundation trenches. All machining was conducted with full archaeological supervision in order to monitor for evidence of archaeological deposits or remains.

7: Results

7.1 The machining of the site, and the trenches revealed a reddish brown silty clay subsoil. The natural substratum, revealed in the foundation trenches, was blue-grey shale, overlain by the red-brown subsoil. Within the building itself, the floor level had been reduced, presumably during the construction of the outbuilding itself.



Figure 16 Conversion of outbuilding, prior to foundation trench excavation.



Figure 17 Interior of outbuilding during renovation.



Figure 18 Foundation trench showing subsoil and natural strata.

8: Conclusions

8.1: The stripping of topsoil and subsequent foundation trenches revealed no archaeological deposits. Post medieval and modern pottery was observed within the spoil heap from the topsoil. This included Post-medieval pancheon ware (C17th +).

9: Archive

9.1: The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number X.A8. 2007. No finds were retained during the watching brief.

10: Acknowledgements

I would like to thank James Bailey Planning for their help and co-operation with this watching brief. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay.

11: Bibliography

John Nichols, *Antiquities of Leicestershire*, Volume IV, pp 845-847, 808.

http://www.nortonjuxtatwycross.org.uk/welcome_to_norton_juxta_twycross.htm

11. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Appendix 1

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological watching brief

Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SK 303 038)

Planning Application: 03/00883/LBC;

For: James Bailey Planning

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification is for an archaeological watching brief during development on land at Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SK 303 038) Planning Application: 03/00883/LBC; for James Bailey Planning. .

1.2 It addresses the requirements for an archaeological scheme of work from Leicestershire County Council as archaeological advisors to Hinckley Borough Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30 (LCC advice letter of 25.11.20050.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1. The watching brief is required to cover all ground disturbances to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work required by the planning authority following recommendations from Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2. The proposed development is for a new factory. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential close to the location of an Anglo Saxon cemetery and a medieval/post-medieval water mill.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors:

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.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundwork's, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest. This may necessitate additional visits and staff time.

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

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

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

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

4.6 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 owner, Leicestershire Museums and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.7 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 Leicestershire Museums and the planning authority.

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 Some 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 colour transparencies and, as appropriate black and white prints illustrating both the detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also

include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

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

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Rutland County Museum within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for Leicestershire Museums.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundwork's (currently 6.06.2006). An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch the topsoil stripping, as specified above. Depending on the results of this further appropriately timed visits may be required during the work in consultation with the contractors.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health and Safety Manual 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.

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Appendix 2

Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (SK 303 038)

Planning Application: 03/00883/LBC;

For: James Bailey Planning

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundwork's 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.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weills 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.

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