


**An Archaeological strip, plan and sample
Programme at Orchard Lea, Main Street,
Willoughby Waterleys,
Harborough, Leicestershire
SP 575 922**

Wayne Jarvis

For: Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd.

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Orchard Lea,
Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys,
Harborough, Leicestershire
SP 575 922**

1. Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 575 922), on behalf of Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd. This work was carried out during the groundworks for a new residential dwelling. No definite archaeological deposits were identified, and finds were restricted to unstratified pottery of post medieval or later date, and a hone stone probably of similar date. The site archive will be held by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, accession no. XA.198 2007.

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken at Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 575 922). This work was carried out during groundworks for a new residential dwelling. The development is close to known sites of medieval date, and there was considered to be moderate potential for archaeology of an earlier date in addition. The work was carried out on behalf of Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd and addressed the *Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation) at Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Harborough, Leics.* issued by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment team as advisors to the planning authority (LCC, HNET 2006 hereinafter the 'Brief'). It followed the approved design specification (Appendix 11.3).

3. Background

The development site (fig. 1) lies in the southern half of the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Willoughby Waterleys, and close to known sites of historical significance ('Brief', 1). These include the parish Church of St. Mary, which originated in the 13th century, Yew Tree Farmhouse whose core is early 17th century, and Manor Farm whose barn dates to the early 1700s. Additionally, the latter site produced evidence for a hollow way and probable early medieval surfaces. Place name evidence relates the settlement to 'willeby' in the Domesday book, this being a combination of the Old English for willows and the Old Scandinavian for a farmstead/village, probably indicating settlement as early as the 9th century (Bourne 2003). The development site was seen as being "within an area of moderate potential", and additionally the significance of any archaeological remains would be "enhanced by the lack of modern disturbance to the site" ('Brief', :2).

The Ordnance Survey geological map indicates the site is located upon drift geology (boulder clay) overlying Triassic mudstone (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Market Harborough, sheet 170). The site lies at a height of c.103m aOD, and consists of relatively flat ground, with the slope increasing up to the east.



Figure 1 General location of village and site. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number AL 100029495.

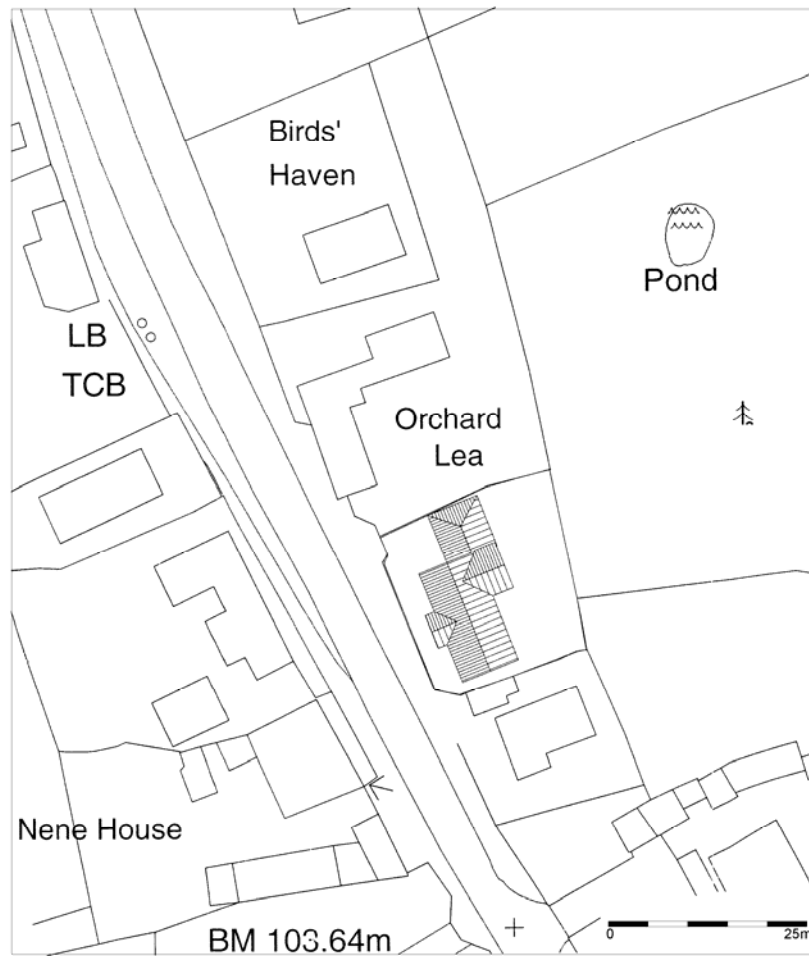


Figure 2 Site within village core



Plate 1 Location of development site (right) on Main Street frontage, looking north east

4. Aims and Methods

In response to a planning application (Plan App No.: 06/00518/FUL) the Senior Planning Archaeologist advised that planning be granted subject to a programme of archaeological work:-

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 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.

The specification was for a 'Strip, Plan and Sample' record, involving control and supervision of groundworks on site, and where practical this would entail an initial trial trench to establish the depth of overburden and the presence/absence of archaeological deposits. If the depth of overburden was greater than 0.15m or no archaeological deposits were identified then further groundworks would be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

5. Results

Fieldwork was carried out on 12/09/07 and 18/09/07 with a tracked 360 mini-digger. Because the ground level was not to be reduced below topsoil level, any stripping would affect areas not impacted by the development, so archaeological fieldwork instead consisted of observation of the foundation trenches being excavated. The foundation trenches were up to 1.6m deep and 0.6m wide (see fig. 3). Topsoil was dark and loamy, with modern building rubble at the frontage, and the depth varied from 0.3m to 0.5m, increasing in depth away from the frontage. Towards the base of the topsoil a disturbed metallised surface was observed in the south-west of the site area, and spanning an area some 2m east-west by 3m or more north-south. This consisted of mortared rounded pebbles ('duck egg' stones), and was considered to relate to the former stables on site. A possible archaeological feature was observed away from the frontage in the central footing (see fig. 3). This consisted of a pit-like cut 0.7m deep, more than 1.5m in diameter, sealed by the topsoil, and cutting the natural (mostly a grey marly clay with occasional sand bands). The upper fill was a mid grey brown sandy clay (*c.* 0.4 m deep), the lower fill being a very dark grey clay (0.2m-0.3m deep). This possible feature was not observed in the other sections however, and did not produce any finds. Unstratified material from the rest of the site consisted of sherds of post medieval or later pottery, and a hone stone of similar date (see appendix 11.2).

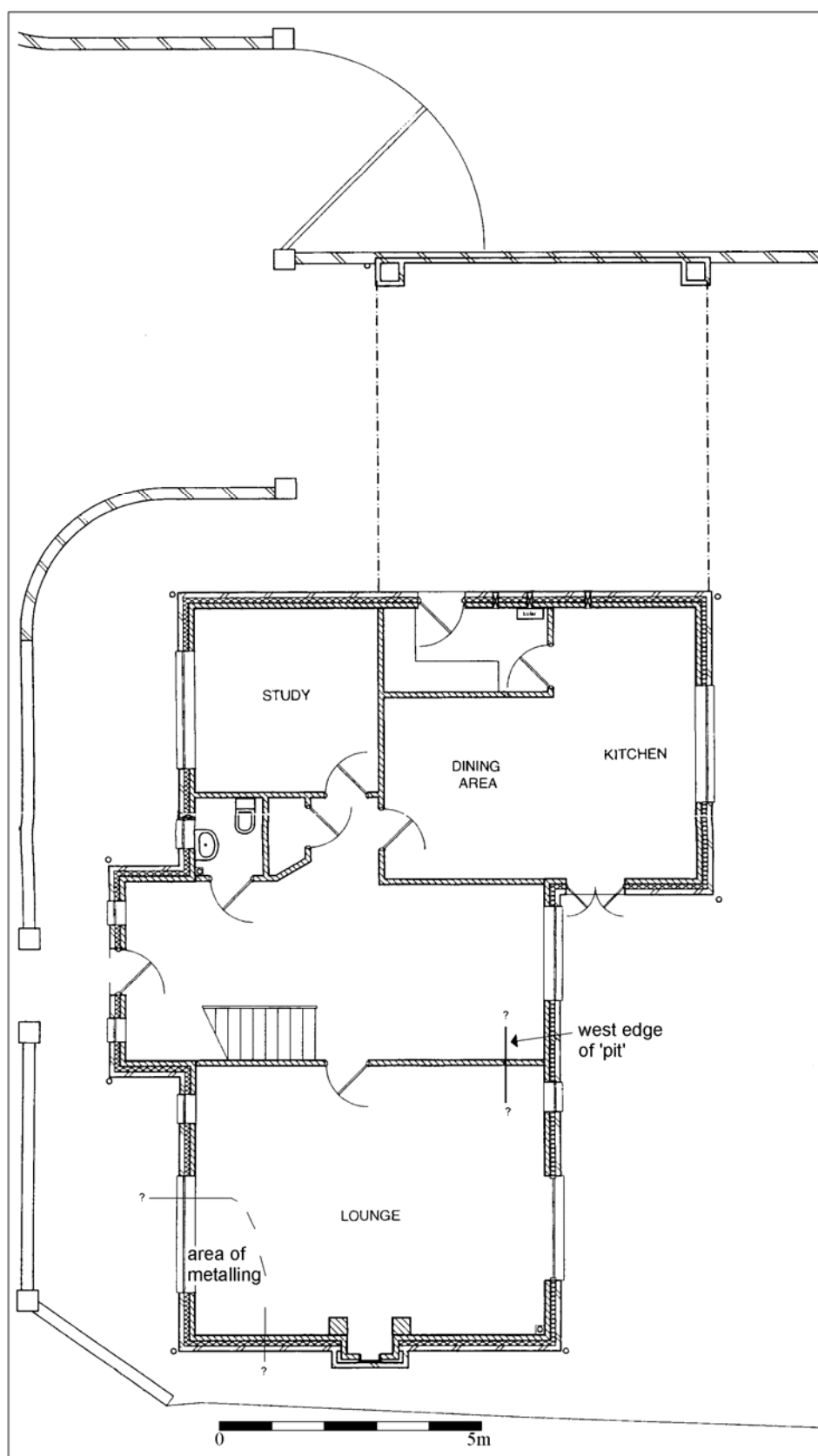


Figure 3 Developer plan for new dwelling, showing foundation plan and areas of interest



Plate 2 digging the central footings, looking north west



Plate 3 Pit like feature in central footing trench, looking north west

6. Conclusions

No definite archaeological features were identified during this work. The results from Orchard Lea provided little supportive evidence for medieval activity on this site, with evidence being restricted to that of a later date. This included demolition material

and a yard surface, most likely associated with the former stables, an undated possible pit feature, and occasional finds of a post medieval or later date.

7. Archive

The site archive will be held by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, accession no. XA.198 2007. The archive consists of a watching brief record sheet, a contact sheet and CD of 6 digital photographs, a copy of this report, and finds (4 sherds of pottery, 1 hone stone).

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

9. Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the client for assistance in this fieldwork. The project was managed by Patrick Clay of ULAS. I am also grateful to Heidi Addison and Deborah Sawday, also of ULAS, for finds identification.

10. Bibliography

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- Connor, A., and Buckley, R. 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.
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- Moore, D.T., and Oakely, G.E., 1979. 'The Hone Stones' in J.H. Williams 1979, 280-283.
- 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).
- Williams, J.H., 1979. *St Peters Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973-76*, Northampton Development Corporation Archaeol. Mon. **2**, 151-240.

11. Appendices

1. Site Diary

12/09/07 1/2 day WJ

18/09/07 1 day WJ

2. The Finds

THE POST ROMAN POTTERY AND OTHER FINDS FROM A WATCHING BRIEF AT WILLOUGHBY WATERLEYS, LEICESTERSHIRE

Deborah Sawday

The pottery was examined and recorded with reference to the ULAS fabric series, (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday, 1999). (Davies and Sawday, 2004).

Four sherds of post medieval or modern pottery and a hone stone probably of a similar date range, were recovered from unstratified contexts during the watching brief (see below).

Site/ Parish: Willoughby Waterleys, Leics. Accession No.: XA198 2007 Document Ref: willoughby waterleys2.doc Material: pottery Site Type:village core.....	Submitter: W. Jarvis Identifier: D.Sawday Date of Identification: 14.1.08 Method of recovery: watching brief Job Number: 07-129.
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Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos.	Weight	Comments
POT				
U/S	EA2 – Earthenware 2	4	124	Post med/modern jar & bowl fragments with red slip and lead glazer internally.
MISC				
U/S	Worked Stone	1		Hone stone post med or ?modern, (Moore & Oakley 1979, fig.123.8)

3. Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Leicestershire (SP 575 926)

Planning Application: 06/00518/3

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of a dwelling at Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Leicestershire (SP 575 926), Planning Application: 06/00518/3 for: Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves a strip plan and record exercise within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample excavation at Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Harborough, Leicestershire* (13.06.2007) from Leicestershire County Council as advisors to Harborough District Council (hereinafter the 'brief'. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil planning conditions required by Harborough District Council.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.1 The site is located in the southern half of the medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Willoughby Waterleys (MLE 9315) close to known sites recorded on the HER (Brief 6.1).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological 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 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 supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open an initial trial trench to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

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

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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.

4.10 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.

4.11 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.

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, 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 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services 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. 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 2005) 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

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)

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23.08.2007

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Orchard Lea, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys, Leicestershire (SP 575 926)

Planning Application: 06/00518/3

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

For: Country Developments (Leicester) Ltd

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

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

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

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 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.

25.04.2007

OASIS INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	Orchard Leas, Main Street, Willoughby Waterleys
Project Type	Watching Brief (Strip. Plan, Sample)
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Wayne Jarvis
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential, new build
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 575 922
Start/end dates of field work	12/09 – 18/09/07
Archive Recipient	Leics. County Council
Study Area	300 sq. m.