

**An Archaeological Watching Brief of Groundworks  
within 47-51 High Street, Daventry,  
Northamptonshire.**


**(NGR SP 572 625)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

**Planning Application: DA/2008/0876**

**For: Mr D. Dosanjh**

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:**  **Date:** 27.11.2008

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**Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr D. Dosanjh to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks within numbers 47-51 High Street, Daventry, a Listed Building.*

*Three foundation trenches were excavated, one having been excavated and concreted prior to archaeological involvement. The other two trenches revealed that the cellar had been in-filled with possibly imported material of no archaeological significance.*

*Two of the trenches uncovered structural evidence of the building indicating the size and shape of the original cellar.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr D. Dosanjh to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks within numbers 47-51 High Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire (SP 572 625). In response to a planning application (Planning Application Number DA/2008/0876) Listed Building consent has been granted by English Heritage to carry out internal alterations and structural remediation work within the property.

The proposed works include the excavation of three areas within the building for pad foundations and new structural steel work. It was envisaged that the excavations will involve the removal of material from a previously backfilled cellar space below the property.

The property is a Grade II Listed Building within the historic settlement core of Daventry; the Listed description is as follows:-

*HIGH STREET 1.5324 (South Side) Nos 45 & 47. Late C18. Red brick, low pitched Welsh slated roof behind stucco blocking course and cornice. 3 storeys, 2 flush sash windows triple light with glazing bars under cutter flat arches. Modern shop windows included for group value.*



Figure 1 Site Location (Original Map Supplied By Client).

## 2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, as defined by the Design Specification (ULAS Specification 09/544), through archaeological observation of the removal of backfilled material in the cellar of 47-51, High Street, Daventry by the client's contractor, was to:-

- Identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building.
- Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The project involved the monitoring of works carried out by the client's contractors. Excavations were carried out by hand under intermittent archaeological supervision. Trenches 1 and 3 were examined and recorded, trench 2 was excavated and, under the instruction of a structural engineer, backfilled with concrete prior to archaeological

examination. The monitoring of the partial excavation of trench 1 indicated that the backfill material from the cellar consisted of sorted recycled hardcore; an examination of the excavated material from trench 2 (stored on site) confirmed the same material was also excavated from this trench. This confirmed that the backfill material was of no archaeological significance. The proposed works were likely, therefore, to only expose parts of the historic fabric of the building; this was recorded archaeologically after the trenches were excavated.

The watching brief was carried out by Gerwyn Richards. The site visits were carried out on November 19<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008.

The building is aligned east - west with the building fronting High Street to the north. Where used the terms 'left' (east), 'right' (west), 'rear' and 'back' (south) are used in relation to the front elevation facing the building from the High Street.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*. The watching brief followed the design specification for archaeological work (ULAS Specification 09/544).

### **3. Results**

#### **3.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 was excavated towards centre of the building (*Figure 3*); approximately fifty per cent of the trench had been excavated prior to the site visit. The trench measured approximately 2.4metres by 1.3metres; the original intended depth was not to exceed 700mm, however, due to the unstable nature of the infill, excavation continued until the cellar floor was reached at approximately 1.8metres below the existing slab. The infill material, observed both within the trench and on the spoil heap consisted of apparently sorted recycled hardcore. The client stated that the infilling had apparently been carried out in the 1960s. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed within the backfill material.

Some elements of the historic fabric of the building were, however, exposed within this trench (*Figure 4*). Three brick built walls were observed and recorded within the trench, one of which was clearly modern; constructed of Fletton bricks it relates to a more recent alteration to the building a discarded Mars Bar wrapper carrying a use by date of 1988 within the fill closest to this wall suggests a tentative date. The other two walls were clearly earlier in date and part of the historic fabric of the building; one wall, aligned north south was clearly structural and originally the gable wall. This wall was 230mm (9 inch) wide immediately below the current floor slab, the wall then stepped, becoming wider, almost certainly, the below ground foundations. The bricks themselves were 2½ inch by 9 inch hand-made red bricks with lime mortar, almost certainly 18th century in date. The removal of the upper courses of this wall revealed apparently undisturbed clay substratum beyond, confirming this wall is the westernmost extent of the cellar.

The second wall was perpendicular (aligned east - west) to the first wall, at the edge of the excavation and therefore, not disturbed. The bricks appeared to match those within the other original wall (white lime prevented absolute confirmation) and is likely, therefore, also to be part of the original historic fabric of the building. From this trench, it was impossible to confirm whether this wall was the rear of the building, or a partition wall within the cellar.

The cellar floor consisted of unglazed red tiles, measuring 230mm by 230mm by 45mm (9inch x 9inch x 1 ¾ inch). They too, appear to be original and were left *in-situ*.

### **3.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was excavated and under instruction of a structural engineer backfilled prior to the site visit (*Figure 5*). However, it was still possible to observe a wall stub projecting from the building's west wall (left hand wall); the line of this wall could be projected (*Figure 3*) and lines up with the wall observed within the southern section of trench 1. The contractors confirmed that the material excavated from both sides of this wall stub was the same infill material. This confirms that the wall was only a partition wall and that the cellar extends further to the south, underneath the rear wing of the building. A single marble bulls eye (*Figure 7*), most likely from a Georgian era fireplace, was recovered from the infill of trench 2. There is no indication of the origin of this piece, although as the date would match that of the building, it is possible that it may have originated from a fireplace within the building.

### **3.3 Trench 3**

The final trench to be excavated was trench 3, which was located approximately 1.2m to the north of trench 1 (*Figure 3*). The excavated infill was identical to that observed within the other two trenches. Initially the trench was to be 1.4metres by 1.4metres and the floor slab was cut to these dimensions, however, due to the instability of the infill the base of the trench was considerably larger.

As expected the original gable wall recorded within trench 1 continued within trench 3 (*Figure 6*), and the inserted modern wall also continued within the trench. At the northern end of the trench (front of the building) there was a second wall, perpendicular to the gable wall, through which there was an opening leading to another part of the cellar, also in-filled. Unlike that of trench 1 the cellar floor within trench 3 appeared to be flag stones.

It appears there were originally at least three separate rooms within the original cellar space; it is possible there may be other partitions as well. The gable wall within trench 3 also had a small alcove built into it; the brick work matched that of the rest of the wall and appears to be original, and the exact purpose of this alcove is unclear. Near the base the alcove wall has a second skin of bricks and it appears that the wall was strengthened here, for some reason.

#### 4. Conclusion

Despite the limited scope of this watching brief a considerable amount of information was recorded. The work indicated there were a number of partitions within the original cellar which was apparently the same size of the current building. It also appears that these partitions were left in place and not removed during the infilling. The work also indicated that there is no cellar to the right (west) of the building; the undisturbed clay substratum suggests no significant disturbance occurred until the modern extension was built, although, this cannot be certain.

With the exception of the marble bulls eye and a fragment of cast iron all the material excavated appeared to be 20th century in date and possibly brought to site from elsewhere. As a result nothing of archaeological significance was recovered from the infill.

#### 5. References

Brunskill. R.W. 1981 *Traditional Buildings Of Britain*. Victor Gollancz.

English Heritage. 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage.

M<sup>c</sup>Kay. W.B. 1945. *Building Craft Series, Brickwork*. Longmans, Green & Co.

#### 6. Archive and Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A2 permatrace sheet
- 14 Black and white negatives with contact sheets
- 14 Digital Colour Images on CD and A4 contact sheet
- 1 A4 Photo Index Sheet
- 2 A4 Watching Brief Sheets

An unbound copy of this report ULAS Report Number 2008-180

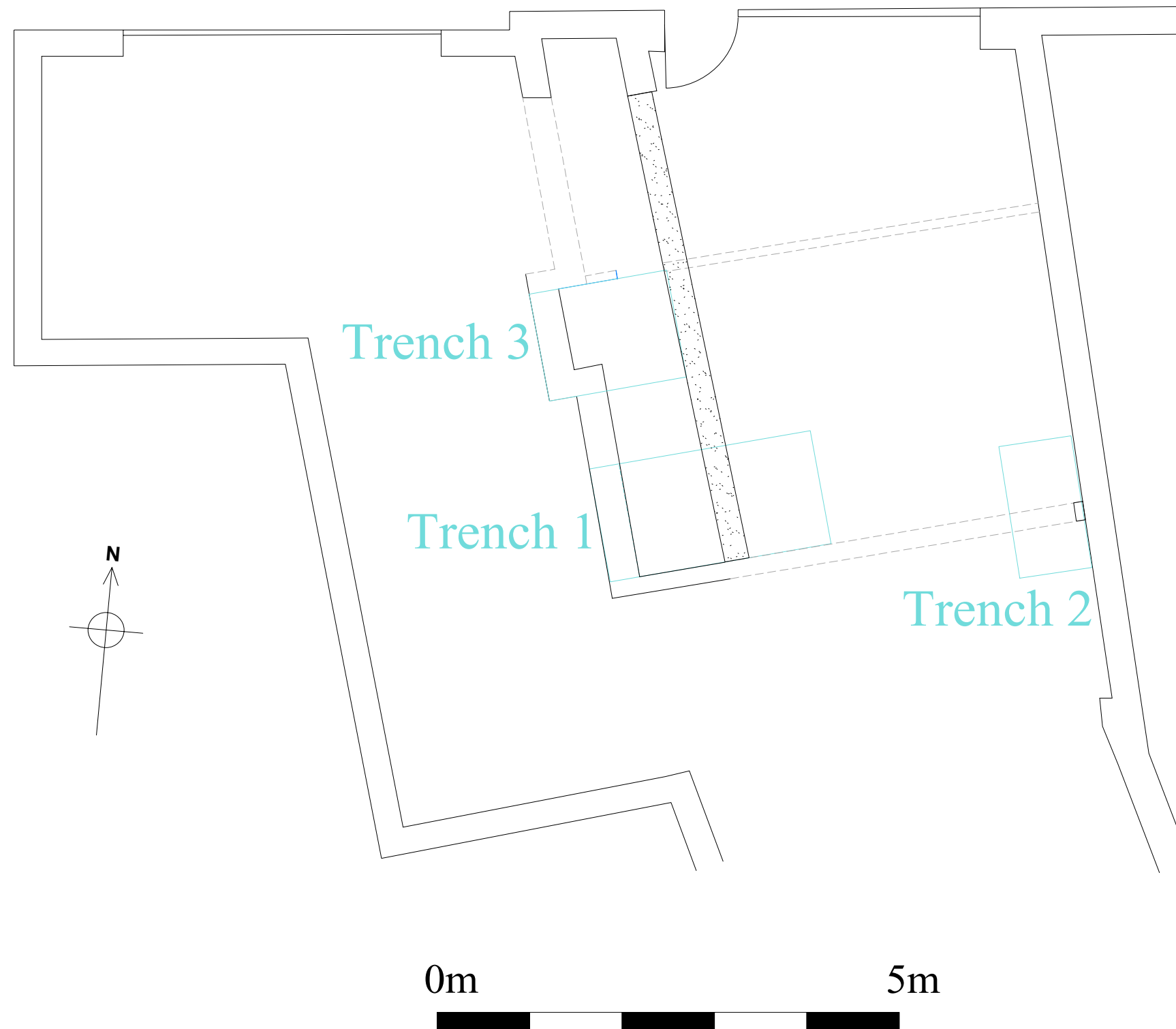
The archive will be held at Northamptonshire County Council.

A summary of the findings (above) will be submitted to the editor of *Northamptonshire Archaeology* for inclusion in the next edition of that journal.

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# High Street



**Figure 2** Trench Plan (Actual Walls in Black, Projected Walls in Grey and Inserted Wall Stippled).





Figure 3 47-51 High Street (looking south-south-east).



Figure 4 Trench 1 (Looking South-south-east).



**Figure 5** Trench 2 Showing Wall Stub (Looking west-north-west).



**Figure 6** Trench 3 (Looking south-south-east).



**Figure 7** Artefacts Recovered from Trench 2 (Photographed, but NOT Retained).

## Appendix

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for archaeological work

*Re 47-51 High Street, Daventry  
SP 572 625*

*Planning Application: DA/2008/0876*

*Planning Authority: Daventry District Council*

*For: Mr D Dosanjh*

#### 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 an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for modifications to a grade II Listed building at 47-51, High Street, Daventry, Northamptonshire (SP 572 625 Figure 1).

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

#### 2 Background

##### 2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Daventry District Council and Listed Building Consent by English Heritage. Listed Building Consent has been granted for internal alterations to create a new sales area and remedial structural works, including infilling four windows. Specifically it requires observation of the removal of material from a back-filled cellar for the insertion of pad foundations (Figure 2).

##### 2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site is a Grade II Listed building the historic settlement core of Daventry (Figure 1).

The Listed description is as follows: HIGH STREET 1. 5324 (South Side) Nos 45 and 47 SP 5762 1/26 II GV 2. Late C18. Red brick, low pitched Welsh slated roof behind stucco blocking course and cornice. 3 storeys, 2 flush sash windows triple light with glazing bars under cutter flat arches. Modern shop windows included for group value

#### 3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of the removal of backfilled material in the cellar of 47-51, High Street, Daventry by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building 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 groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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.

4.5 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, Daventry District Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 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 Daventry District Council and English Heritage, as appropriate.

#### **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 black and white prints and colour digital images, as appropriate, 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 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 Nottinghamshire County Council SMR and an appropriate registered 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits 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 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**

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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18.11.2008



Figure 1 Location Plan



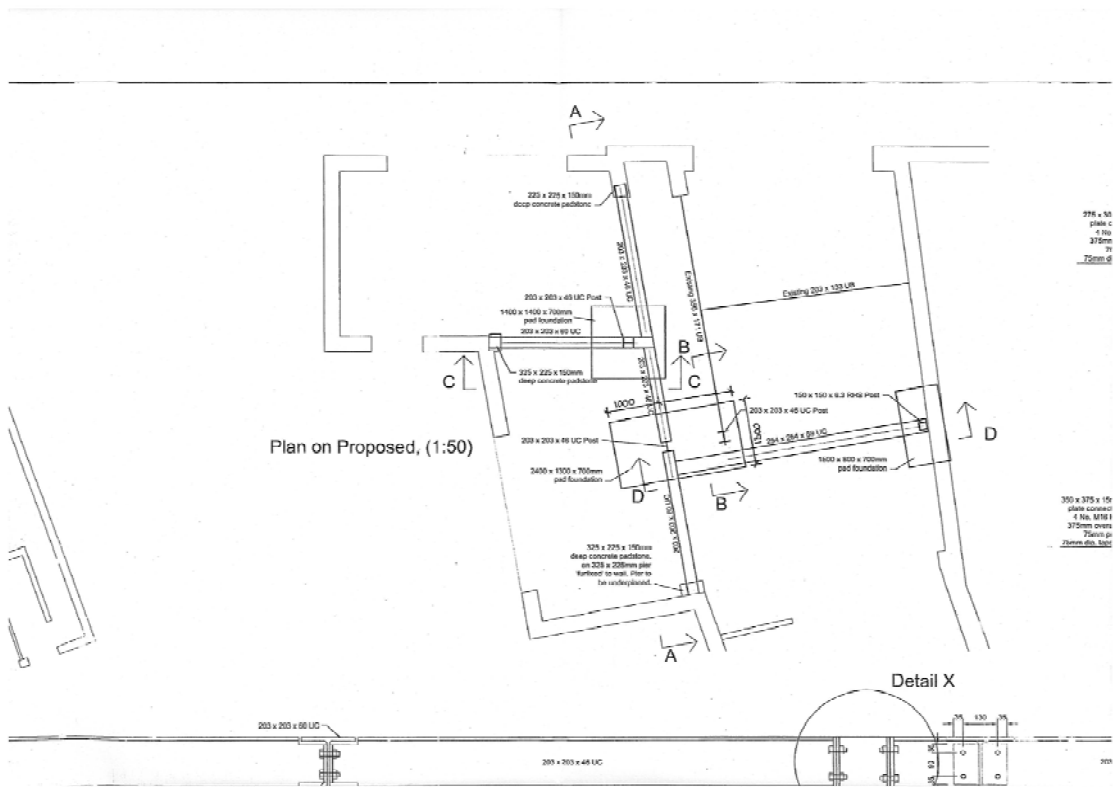


Figure 2 Plan of proposed groundworks at 47-51, High Street, Daventry.

## **Appendix**

### ***Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement***

***Re 47-51 High Street, Daventry  
SP 572 625***

***Planning Application: DA/2008/0876***

***Planning Authority: Daventry District Council***

***For: Mr D Dosanjh***

#### *1 Nature of the work*

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.75 - 1.5m. 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 contractors on-site Health and Safety policy, the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety manual 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 watching brief

## **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.

*2.4 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.

*2.5 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.

*2.6 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.

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

Patrick Clay  
18.11.2008