

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna,
Leicestershire (SP594927)**

Martin Shore

For:

Miss A Stanley Blake & Mr. E. Tuli.

Checked by

Signed



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna,
Leicestershire (SP594927), Planning application: 05/00745/FUL.**

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By Martin Shore

1. Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of Miss A Stanley Blake & Mr. E. Tuli. at Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP594927). The work was carried out during groundworks for a residential dwelling. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified or located. The site archive will be held by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, under accession no X.A65.2008.

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken at Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP594927). The work was carried out during the groundworks for a residential dwelling. The site is close to known medieval archaeology. This work was carried out on behalf of Miss A Stanley Blake & Mr. E. Tuli.



Figure 1: Location of Peatling Magna

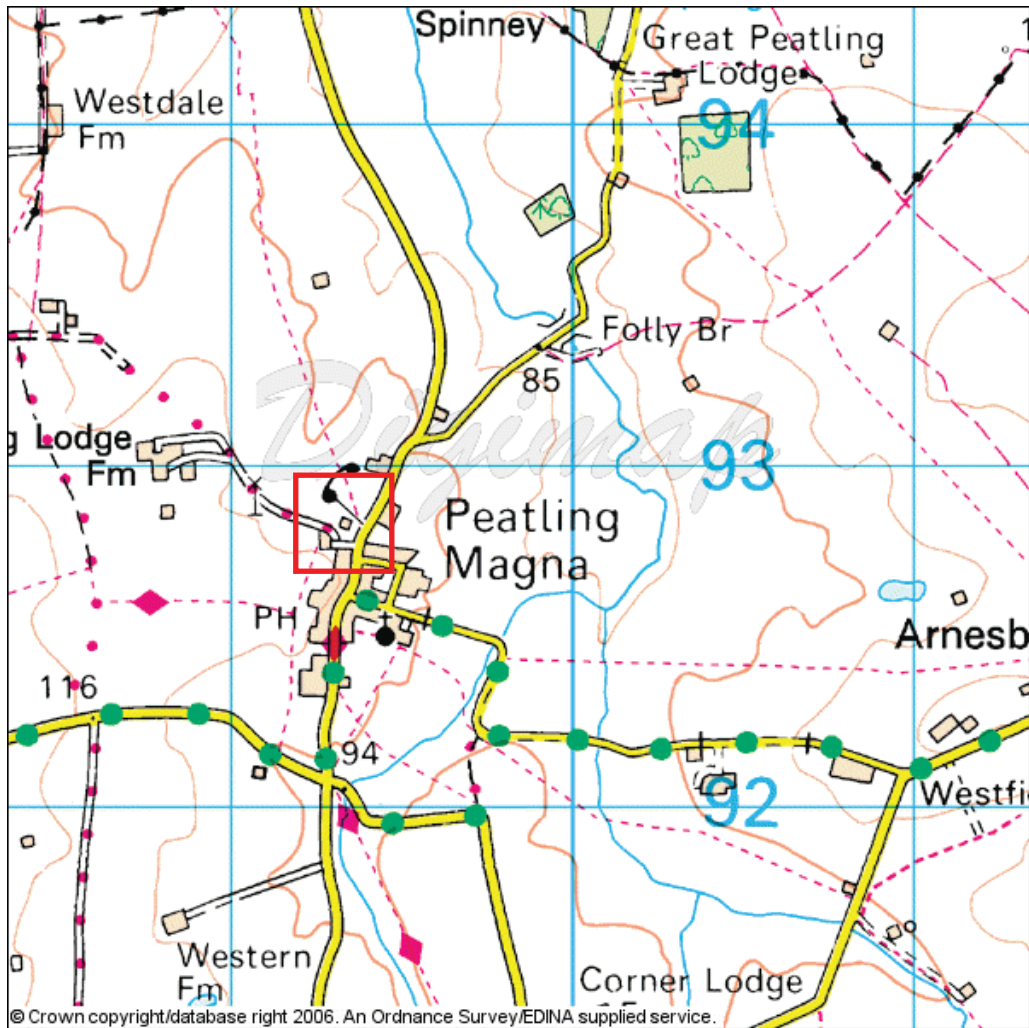


Figure 2: Peatling Magna showing location of development site

3. Background

The site lies within an area of archaeological importance within the medieval settlement core of Peatling Magna, on a street frontage, close to the scheduled monument (SM30284), which consists of medieval/post-medieval village earthworks. In addition, Roman, Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery has been found nearby. Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

The fieldwork is necessary to fulfil the conditions required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. The requirement was for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks that have the potential to expose or damage any underlying archaeological deposits. The underlying geology of the site consists of Boulder Clays and sand and gravels.

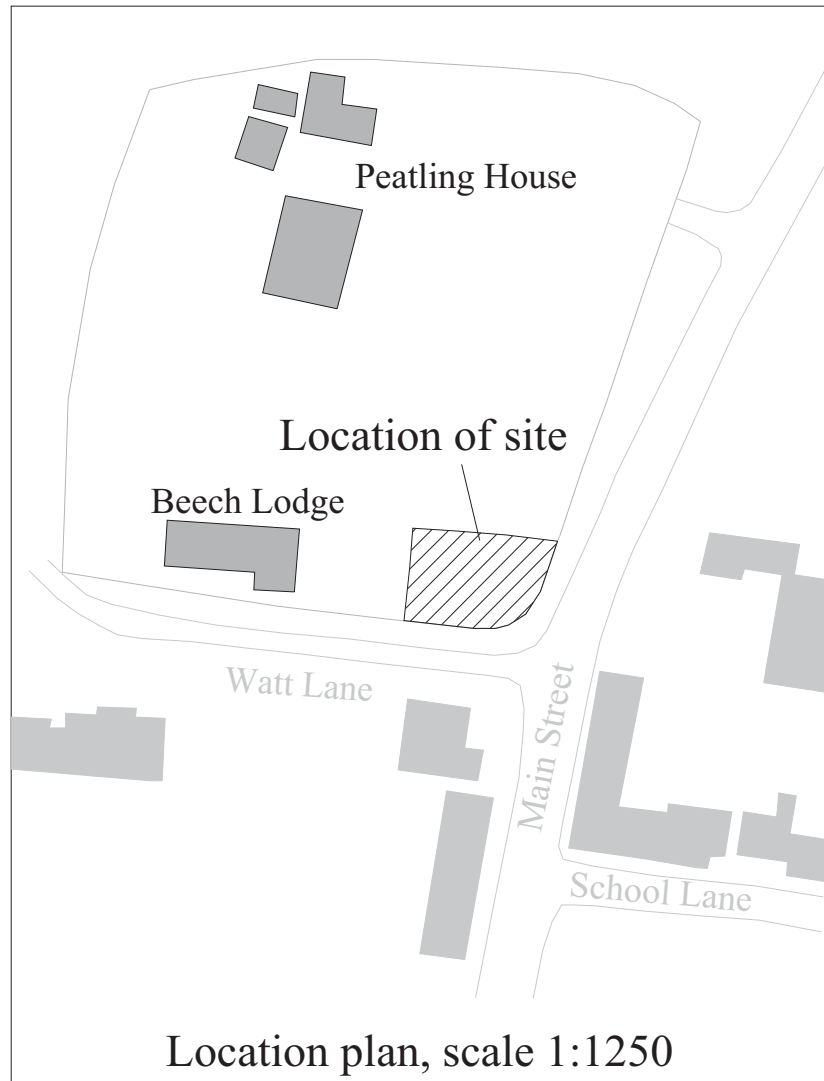


Figure 3: Location of Development Site

4. Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present and, if so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University, s Health and Safety policy. The groundworks were to involve a top soil strip to the natural subsoils ahead of footings for a small residential dwelling. Monitoring of this work took place on 10.1.07, during which a small excavator performed the groundworks, despite overnight rain making conditions difficult.

5. Results

The top soil was excavated to a depth of 50-70cm, showing the lower sub soils, and was a dark greyish brown in colour, which consisted of silty sandy clay with pebbles. The natural undisturbed ground, below the topsoil from present ground level was about 70cm in depth; this was a light yellow/brown in colour, which consisted of a sandy clay with occasional pebbles. The excavation was hampered by plant and tree roots which had found their way into the natural sub soils. This had made identification of any archaeological features difficult but not impossible. No archaeological features were seen in either section or in plan, and no finds were located.

6. Conclusions

No archaeological features were seen during the groundworks at Beech Lodge, the land in question may have been agricultural during the medieval period. No finds of any significance were noted.

7. Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment team with accession number XA65.2007 and consist of the following:

1 Watching brief recording sheet and digital photographs.

8. Bibliography

Score, V. *Design specification for Archaeological watching brief at Beech House, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna*

9. Acknowledgments

ULAS would like to thank Miss A Stanley Blake & Mr. E. Tuli and the developers for their help and co-operation. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological watching brief

Client:	Miss A Stanley-Blake & Mr. E. Luli
Site:	Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire
Development:	Proposed New House
Planning App No:	05/00745/FUL (revised)
Project:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Planning Authority:	Leicestershire County Council

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1.1 This document constitutes a written scheme of archaeological investigation for the above site, which ULAS proposes to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any potential damage to buried archaeological deposits. This specification has been prepared in accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30).
- 1.1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2. Background

2.1 Context of the Project

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP594927; Planning Application: 05/00745/FUL (revised); Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a dwelling subject to planning conditions (Figs 1 and 2).
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested that a watching brief is undertaken during the groundworks for the development.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The following background information has been taken from 'Archaeological Considerations' sent by Harborough District Council Planning Authority (12-10-2006):

The Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows that the application area lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is inside the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, on a street frontage, close to the Scheduled Monument (SM30284) which consists of medieval/post-medieval village earthworks. In addition, Roman, Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery has been found nearby (MLE10456, MLE10457 and MLE10455). Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

3. Archaeological Objectives

- 3.1 The main objectives of the excavation and watching brief will be:
 - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
 - To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (1999) and *watching briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, the Planning authority and the Client.

4.21 *Archaeological Supervision and Recording*

- 4.2.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during groundworks.
- 4.2.2 During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest. In the event of significant archaeological deposits being located there may be the need for additional time and resources to record these.
- 4.2.3 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.
- 4.2.5 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.2.6 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.7 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 County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

5. Recording Systems

- 5.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 5.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 5.3 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

- 5.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, at an appropriate scale. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared 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.
- 5.6 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.
- 5.7 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6. Finds and Samples

- 6.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 6.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to the relevant Museum for storage in perpetuity.
- 6.3 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 6.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:
- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
 - Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 6.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 6.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7. Report and Archive

- 7.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; SMR and Local Planning Authority.
- 7.2 The report will include consideration of:-
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.

- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location of the archive.

- 7.3 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 usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

8 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 8.1 The evaluation and watching brief report will be submitted to Leicestershire County Council for inclusion in the Sites and Monuments Record. A summary of the work will be submitted to the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the works warrant it.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Leicestershire County SMR support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. ULAS will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> on completion of the project and report if required. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire County Council SMR it may be placed on a web-site. The Client should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire County Council SMR.

9. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 9.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 9.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

10. Copyright

- 10.1 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.

11. Timetable

- 11.1 No start date has yet been provided for the groundworks. The duration of the watching brief will be dependant upon the time taken for the groundworks and the quantity and significance of the archaeological deposits revealed.
- 11.2 The report will be ready within three months of the completion of fieldwork. The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the

costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

12. Health and Safety

- 12.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. 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.
- 12.2 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

13. Insurance

- 13.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

14. Monitoring arrangements

- 14.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. At least one weeks notice will be given to Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological investigations in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 14.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.
- 14.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

15. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 15.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

16. Bibliography

- MAP 2 The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
- MGC 1992 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
- RFG/FRG 1993 Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)
- SMA 1993 Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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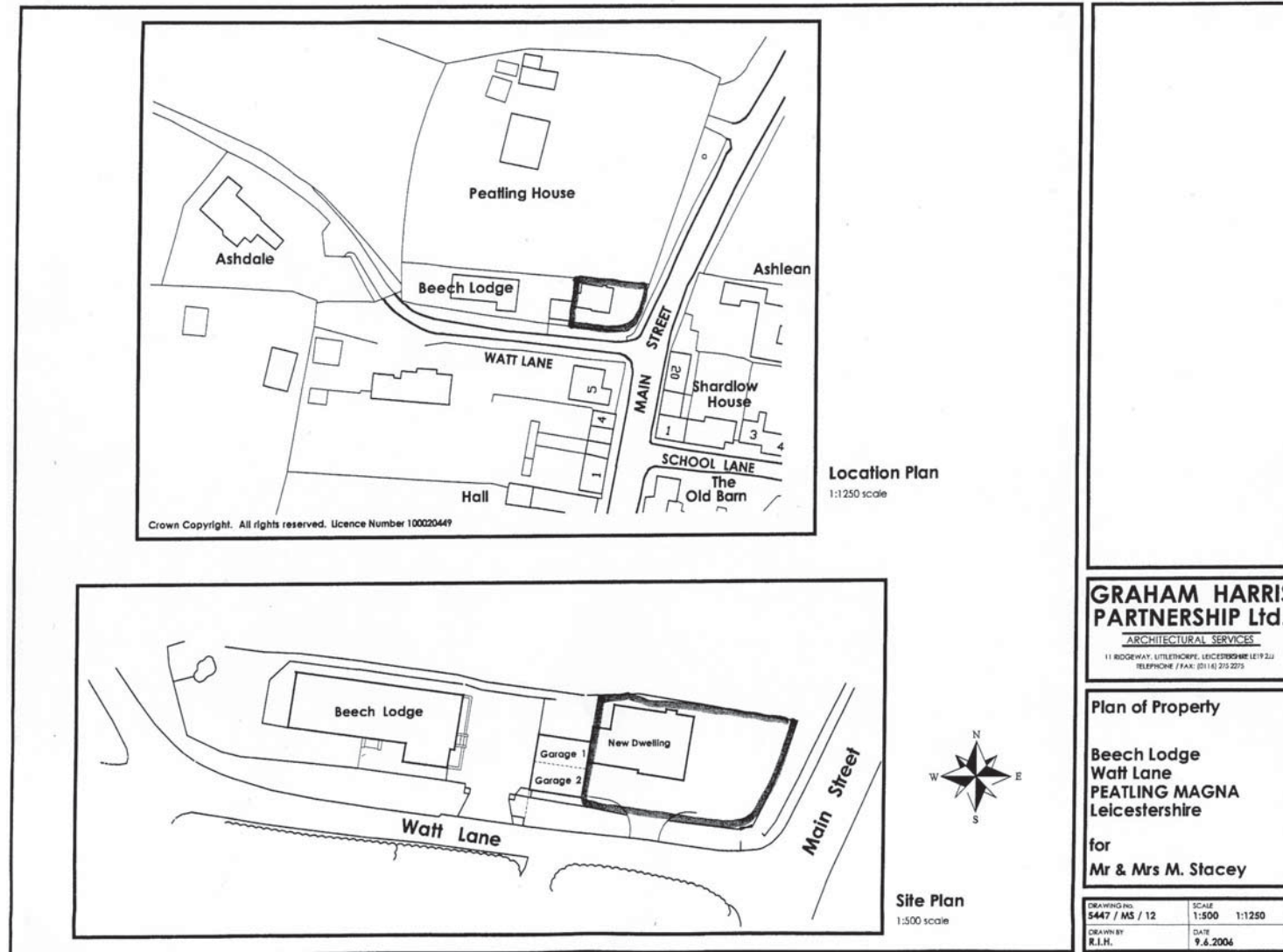


Figure 1: Site Location plan (Supplied by Graham Harris Partnership).

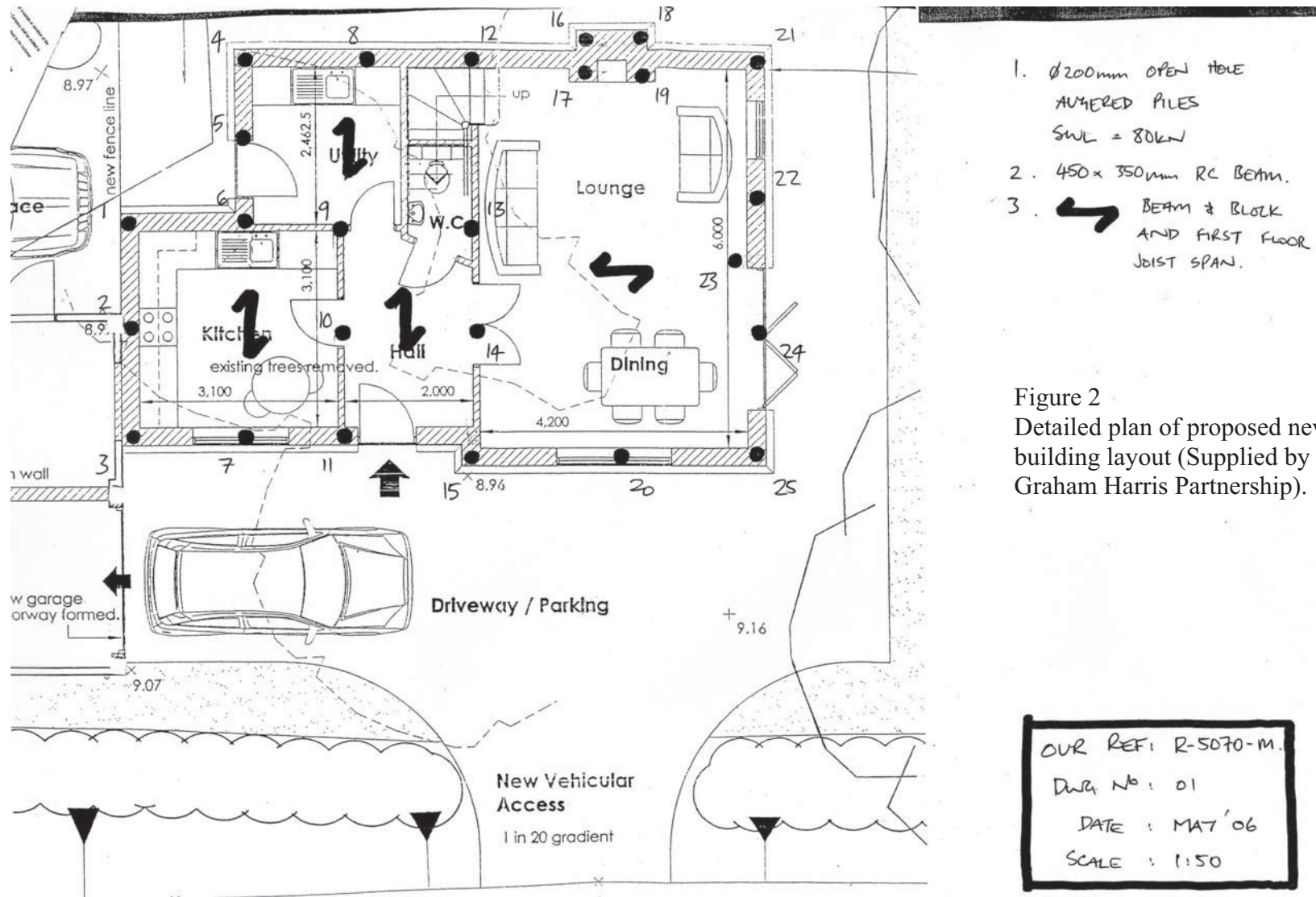


Figure 2
Detailed plan of proposed new building layout (Supplied by Graham Harris Partnership).

Appendix 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Groundworks at Beech Lodge, Watt Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire

For Graham Harris Partnership Ltd

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks, and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Works will comprise minimum removal of topsoil and a hand dug trench for drainage beneath the building. Overall depth for this is unknown. Where archaeological deposits are revealed they will be examined and excavated with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc). 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 Vials 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.

Vicki Score

October 2006