



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at Monsom Farm,
Monsom Lane, Repton,
Derbyshire. (SK 307 272)**

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2009-168
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at Monsom Farm,
Monsom Lane, Repton,
Derbyshire. (SK 307 272)**

Leon Hunt

for

Mr. J Rowland

Planning App. No: 9 2000 0345F

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:.



Date: 03/12/2009

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Monsom Farm, Monsom Lane, Repton, Derbyshire (SK 307 272) for Mr. J Rowlands. The archaeological work was carried out during ground-works associated with the reduction of ground levels in advance of the erection of new houses on the site.

The site lies within an area that may have been settled during the medieval period. Previously, there had been no recorded archaeological finds or features found in this area.

The watching brief only covered only part of the area originally proposed for development as only one dwelling of the 4 proposed dwellings was built.

The watching brief uncovered a couple of small features, one of which contained pottery dating from the medieval period.

The archive for this project will be deposited with Derby Museums and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU 2005-742.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Monsom Farm, Monsom Lane, Repton, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 307 272), during ground-works associated with the erection of four dwellings and three garages, and associated services. The development also proposed a garage extension to Monsom Farm, the conversion of a barn to garages and the use of the northern part of the site as a paddock (application number 9 2000 0345 F).

Only one of the proposed dwellings was completed and this report covers the ground-works associated with this single dwelling.

Site Location and Geology

Repton lies approximately 15km south west of the city of Derby on the south bank of the River Trent in the south west corner of Derbyshire (Figure 1). The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of alluvium overlying sandstone and Marl. The land lies at a height of c.45m OD.

Historical and archaeological Background

Repton is a very important historical village, which has witnessed some major events in the history of England. In AD 653, Repton was the place where Christianity was first preached in the Midlands. Four priests were sent from the kingdom of Northumbria to Repton to convert the Mercian royal family from their paganism so that a royal wedding could take place. A double abbey was later founded there.



Figure 1: Site Location

Reproduced from Landranger® Sheet 128 (derby & Burton on Trent) 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 1991.

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The famous Repton Church crypt was begun in the 8th century, and became a mausoleum for the Mercian royal family. King Ethelbald was entombed in it in 757, and King Wiglaf in 840. Pevsner described the crypt as “one of the most precious survivals of Anglo-Saxon architecture in England” (Pevsner 1960).

The village was invaded by Vikings in 873-4 and used the Abbey as a defensive structure, constructing ditches between the Abbey and the river.

Repton has been a focus of archaeological investigation for many years, particularly the work of Martin and Birthe Biddle, who excavated the area around St. Wystan's Church and the vicarage garden. These excavations included the remains of an 8th century stone chapel and a Viking burial mound, which contained the remains of 200 Viking men and 49 Mercian women (www.reptonvillage.org.uk).

Repton has been the subject of an Extensive Urban Survey. The area around Monsom Farm is within component 11 of this survey and is believed to be within an area of post-medieval settlement. It is also states that 'it is possible that some settlement already existed here in the medieval period' (Stroud 1999).

No archaeological deposits are recorded within the area, but this may be a result of the lack of previous archaeological investigations.



Figure 2: Location plan for Monsom Farm. Original scale 1: 10 000

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. 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 watching brief covered the examination of soil stripping for site reduction. An archaeologist visited the site on 6th February 2006 and ground-works associated with stripping of upper soil layers were observed. The excavations were carried out by a small tracked excavator.

Results

The observed area lay to the east of the existing house at Monsom Farm.

The ground-works largely consisted of the reduction of site levels, by the removal of the upper soils, to the level of the existing patio of the house. On arrival much of the topsoil had already been removed (Plate 1), along with a brick outbuilding that once occupied the centre of the site. No remains of this were visible (Plate 2).

Around 1m of material, including the topsoil, needed to be removed in order to reach the required level. The sequence of the upper soils, could be observed in the remaining sections and consisted of 0.17m of dark brown loam garden soil, overlying 0.3m of reddish brown silty clay subsoil (Plate 3). Under this layer was a further 0.5m deep layer of silt, which lay over the mottled light yellow and brown clay natural substratum (Plate 4).

A modern flexible water pipe was encountered around 4m from the house running north, a small square feature was also observed, which contained loamy soil and was most likely modern.

Close to the south east corner of the site a 4.1m by 0.8m lozenge-shaped feature was observed, along with a small apparently circular pit, which was partially within the eastern baulk of the excavated area (Plate 5). Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the brown coloured silt fill of the lozenge-shaped pit, which was steep sided with a flat base.

Conclusion

Only a small part of the proposed development site was observed, as only one of the proposed 4 dwellings was completed. This area was stripped to the clay sub-stratum and therefore it was not necessary to observe the foundation trenches.

Two archaeological features were observed close to the south-east corner of the site. The small pit feature could not be closely dated. The lozenge-shaped feature contained three sherds of pottery dating from the medieval period.

Two of the sherds are of a coarse sandy fabric and are likely to originate from Burley Hill and dates from the 13th-14th centuries. The larger sherd is of a coarse red sandy ware and is most likely to be part of a jar. It is likely to be late medieval in date and also from Burley Hill.

The features may represent a slot and a post-hole of a building that once existed in this corner of the site, along the frontage of Monsom Lane, although as they were at the very edge of the site it is difficult to ascertain exactly what they represent. The pottery recovered from the fill is of varying dates and therefore may be residual.

No further visits were made to the site at Monsom Farm as the development did not continue beyond the construction of the one new building.

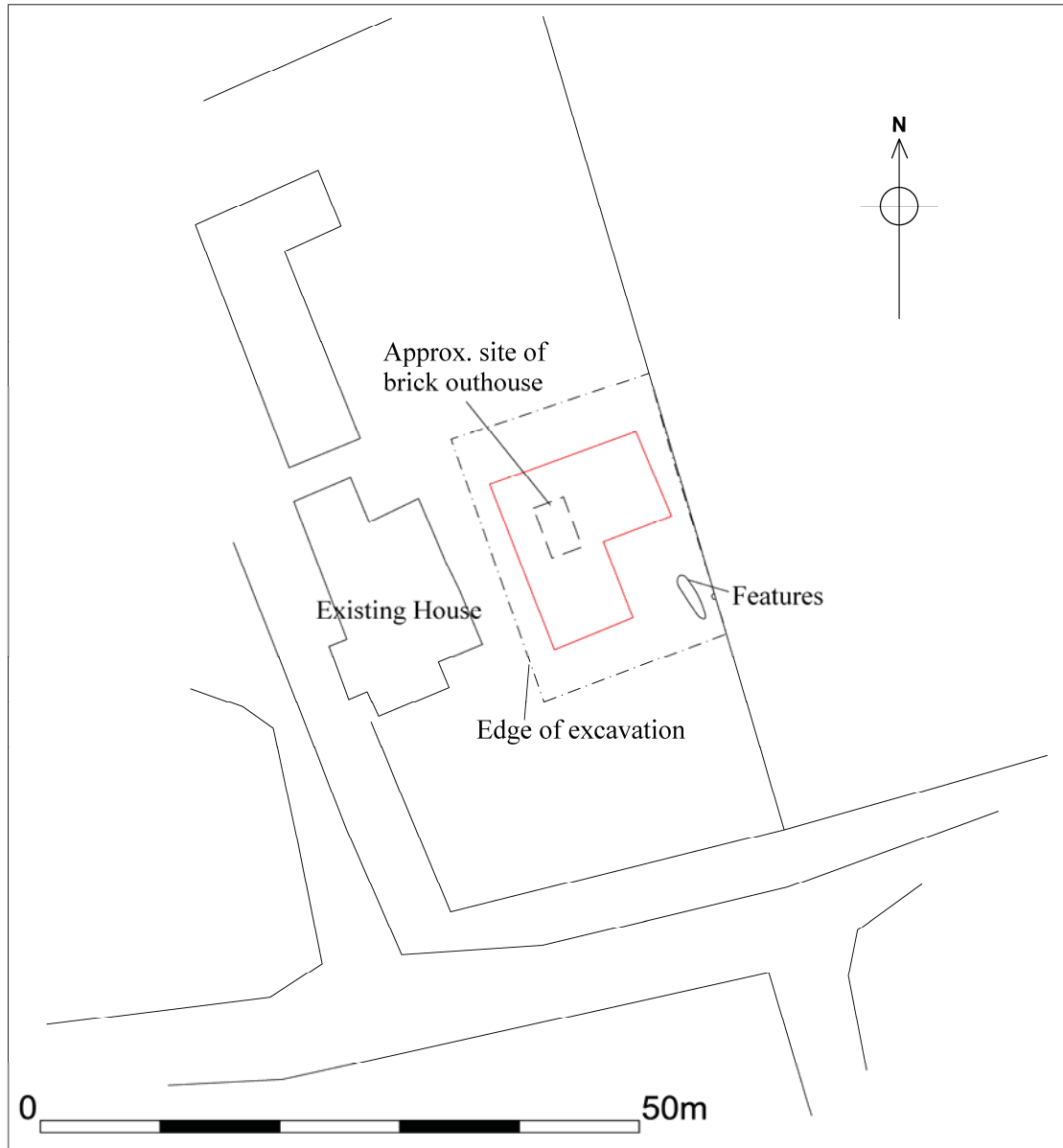


Figure 3: Plan showing areas and features observed during watching brief. Footprint of proposed building in red

References

Pevsner, N. 1960 *The Buildings of England, Leicestershire & Rutland*. (revised Elizabeth Williamson, 1984)

Stroud, G. 2002 *Derbyshire Extensive Urban Survey Archaeological Assessment Report: Repton*. Derbyshire County Council

Archive

The archive for this watching brief will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU 2005-742 and consists of:

1. Archive Contents List
2. 1 Copy Final Report 2009-168

3. 1 Watching Brief recording sheet
4. 1 Photo List
5. 1 CD Digital Photos
6. 1 Contact Sheet Digital Photos
7. 2 A3 sheets architect's plans

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr. J Rowlands and family for their co-operation and assistance during the watching brief. The watching brief was carried out by the author and the project was managed by Patrick Clay.

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11/01/10

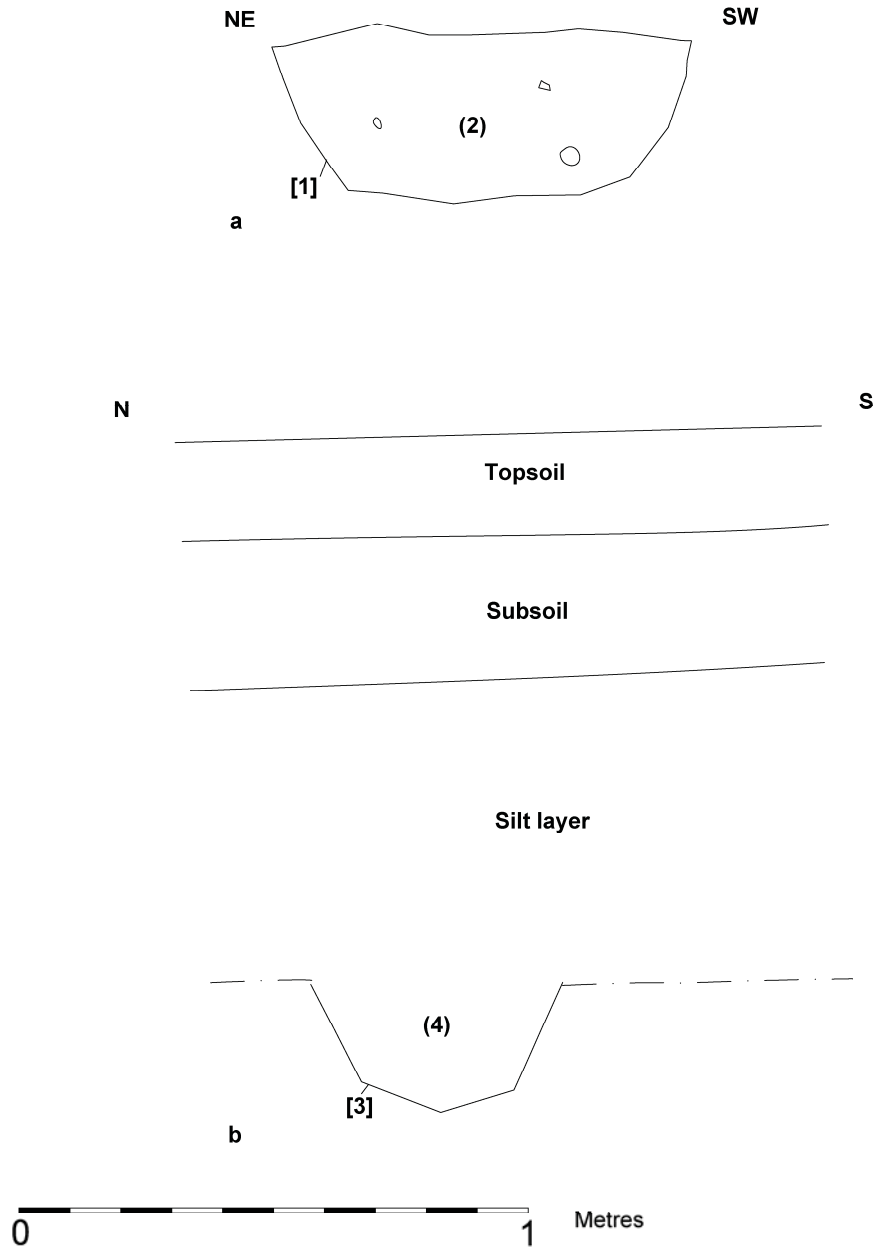


Figure 4: A. North-west facing section of feature [1], (2)
B. West facing section of feature [3], (4)



Plate 1: The site on arrival with topsoil removed, looking north



**Plate 2: The demolished outbuilding that had existed in centre of site, looking north.
Picture provided by J. Rowland,**



Plate 3: Soil sequence in south-west facing section, looking north east



Plate 4: Stripping almost completed, showing natural clay beneath soils, looking north-west



Plate 5: Feature close to south east corner, looking south-east

Appendix Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Monsom Farm, Monsom Lane, Repton, Derbyshire

NGR SK 308 273

Planning Appeal ref: AAPF1040/A/00/1053518

Client: Mr J Rowlands

1. Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the conditions placed on the planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried archaeological remains from the development. The specification addresses the requirement for an archaeological watching brief requested for the site by the Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

1.2 This document provides a scheme of works for:

- A watching brief to be undertaken during the groundworks for residential development at Monsom Farm, Monsom Lane, Repton, Derbyshire (SK 308 273). The requirement for an archaeological watching brief has been confirmed by the Derbyshire County Council, Planning Archaeologist as archaeological advisor to the planning Authority (31.8.2005).

2. Archaeological Objectives

- 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. Background

3.1 *Archaeological Background*

- 3.1.1 The Extensive Urban Survey for Repton (Stroud 1999) includes this land in component 11 "Settlement at Brook End". This component is thought to have been primarily an area of post-medieval settlement growth. However, the component 11 summary states, "Buildings fronting Brook End, Monsom Lane and Milton Road. It is possible that some settlement already existed here in the medieval period."
- 3.1.2 Although no archaeological deposits are recorded within the site area, this may be as a result of the lack of any previous investigations.

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 Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.

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 being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the client, if required.

4.2 ***General Watching Brief Strategy***

4.2.1 It is the aim, that through archaeological observation of overburden stripping and, if necessary, foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors, ULAS will obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by all areas disturbed by the works associated with the development.

4.2.4 The archaeological watching brief will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist. During this excavation, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest. A second archaeologist may also be required in areas of greater archaeological potential, or if surveying is required.

4.2.5 The archaeologist/s will cooperate at all times with the contractors to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to the work. However, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt the works in order to define and record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2.6 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).

4.3 ***Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances***

4.3.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, ULAS shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager, the Development Control Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Development Control Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the client a contingency scheme for emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

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 prepared pro-forma recording sheets. If the complexity of the archaeology warrants it, records will be computerised onto a database.

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 plans at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

5.4. 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 be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as appropriate. The relative height of principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.5. 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.

5.6. This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

6 ***Environmental Sampling***

6.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if appropriate:

- i. 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.
 - ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - iv. 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.
- 6.2 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.
- 6.2.1 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.
- 6.2.2 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

7. Finds and Samples

- 7.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 7.2 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 Derby Museum and Art Gallery for storage in perpetuity.
- 7.3 Before commencing work on the site, a site code will be issued to all records and finds from the site, to be agreed with the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 All identified finds and artefacts, including faunal remains, are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologists. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 7.6 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 metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

8. Health and Safety

- 8.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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.

8.2 Health and Safety procedures will be agreed between ULAS and the site tenants prior to the commencement of work, and will be subject to review by both parties for the duration of the works.

8.3 The University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and manual have also recently been issued and will be adhered to during the course of the archaeological works.

9. Insurance

9.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. (policy number 62/99094H/D expires: 01/08/2003), Employers Liability Insurance is with Zurich Insurance (policy number J0198732 expires: 01/08/2003) and Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance London (policy number PI45000A expires: 01/08/2003).

10. Monitoring arrangements

10.1 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. It will be the responsibility of ULAS to keep the curatorial staff at Derbyshire County Council informed about the progress of the works and proposed schedules, so that monitoring arrangements can be made.

10.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations/Watching Briefs*

10.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

11 Timescale and Staffing

11.1 The groundworks are scheduled to start on 14.3.2005.

11.3 It is envisaged that a professional archaeologist will be required on-site for the majority of the watching brief works. A second professional archaeologist may be necessary during groundworks in areas with greater archaeological potential, or if a number of archaeological deposits are revealed. A contingency for emergency excavation may also be required (see 4.3 above).

12 Report and Archive

12.1 A report on the building appraisal will be submitted separately to the watching brief report and prior to any demolition works being undertaken at the site.

12.2 A brief report in letter form, summarising the main results of the watching brief will be released, if required, after the completion of interim phases of fieldwork.

12.3 The full, bound report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of all fieldwork, and copies will be dispatched to: Derbyshire County Council Planning Archaeologist/Sites and Monuments Record (2), Derby City Council (1), Derby Museum and Art Gallery (1), the Client (2). The report will include consideration of:-

- i) Non-technical Summary
- ii) Introductory Statement
- iii) The aims and purpose of the watching brief
- iv) The methodology adopted in the course of the watching brief
- v) The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered
- vi) Conclusion, including a confidence statement
- vii) Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.

- viii) Supporting data – including as a minimum basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data
- ix) The location and size of the archive
- x) References

12.4 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 the Derby Museum and Art Gallery normally within six months of the completion of fieldwork (arrangements for this are in progress). This archive will include all original written, drawn, photographic records, notes relating directly to the investigations undertaken, as well as final copies of the desk-based assessment, watching brief report and buildings appraisal, along with any finds and an index to the archive.

13 Publication

13.1 A summary of the evaluation will be submitted for inclusion in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. If warranted, a more detailed report will be submitted. Details of any publication will be sent to the Derbyshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

14. Copyright

14.1 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.

15. Acknowledgement and publicity

15.1 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.

15.2 The Client has made it known that no contact with the media regarding the site shall be undertaken by any member of ULAS on site. All enquiries from the media or members of the public made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

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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APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 *Working with plant.*

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established. Overhead power lines are present to the south of the areas to be evaluated. The machine will maintain a distance of at least 10 m to the north of the powerlines.

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. 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.



Corporate Division

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

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11 January 2010

Our Ref: EU/SN/Ext 5010

Dear Sirs

University of Leicester – Liability Insurances

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following liability insurances:-

Employers Liability

Insurer : Zurich Insurance
Policy Number : J0198732
Expiry Date : 31 July 2006
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
Extension : Indemnity to Principal

Public Liability

Insurer : Gerling Insurance Service Company Ltd
Policy Number : 62/99094H/D
Expiry Date : 31 July 2006
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
£10,000,000 any one period for Products Liability
Extension : Indemnity to Principal
Liability assumed under Contract or Agreement

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Miss Sam Nappey
Account Handler
Education Unit



Corporate Division

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

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11 January 2010

Our Ref: EU/SN/Ext 5010

Dear Sirs

University of Leicester – Professional Indemnity Insurance

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following insurance:-

Insurer : Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance London
Policy Number : PI45000A
Expiry Date : 31 July 2006
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one claim and in all

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Miss Sam Nappey
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9