



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Catthorpe Hall,
Main Street,
Catthorpe, Leicestershire
(SK 552 780)**

Gerwyn Richards




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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Catthorpe Hall, Main Street,
Catthorpe, Leicestershire.
(NGR SK 552 780)**

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 06/01848/FUL

For: Mrs G. Curley.

Checked by
Signed: ...  ..
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Catthorpe Hall, Main Street,
Catthorpe, Leicestershire (SK 552 780)**

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mrs G. Curley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of new detached garage at Catthorpe Hall, Catthorpe, Leicestershire.

The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village. No definite archaeological features were encountered during the course of the watching brief, however a number of sherds of medieval pottery, as well as a single sherd of late Saxon pottery were recovered, suggesting nearby medieval settlement activity, possibly within the grounds of the Hall.

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A169. 2010.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mrs G. Curley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new detached garage in advance of the construction of a new residential unit at Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe (SP 552 780; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located to the north east of the current Hall, on the Main Street frontage. The groundworks initially consisted of a topsoil strip followed by the excavation of foundation trenches.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological interest, located within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Catthorpe. Immediately to the north of the proposed development area is the medieval church of Saint Thomas (HER Ref: MLE1356). Also nearby are standing earthworks (MLE1360) as well as the possible site of a Roman pavement (MLE1358).

The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Harborough District Council advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance was approved. This consisted of a watching brief carried out during the groundworks undertaken by the client's contractors. This work followed Planning Policy Statement 5 (*Planning and the Historic Environment*) (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2010).

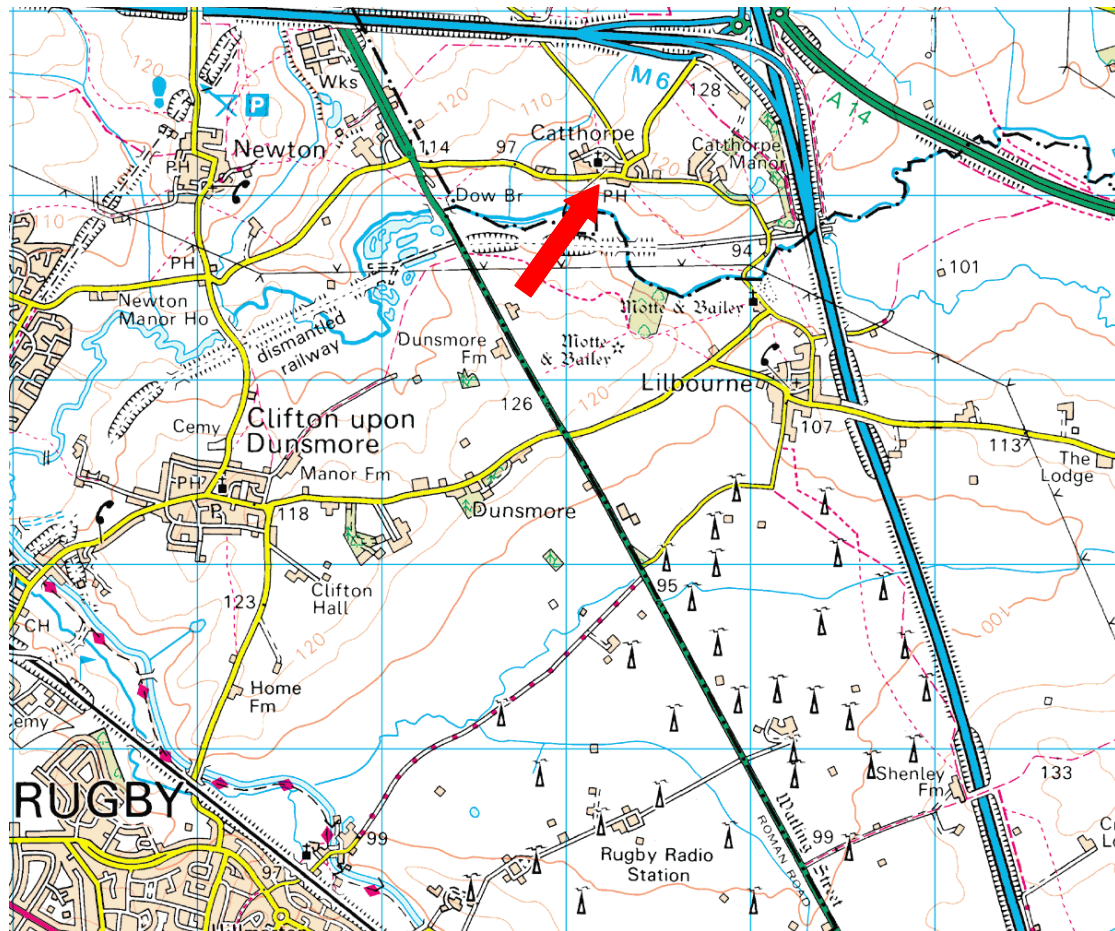


Figure 1. Site location

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, was to:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008), the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy. The methodology to be followed was detailed in the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* (ULAS 09-523).

All groundworks were carried out by a 5.5 tonne mini digger fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was

observed and the spoil searched for finds. The watching brief took place on September 14th 2010.

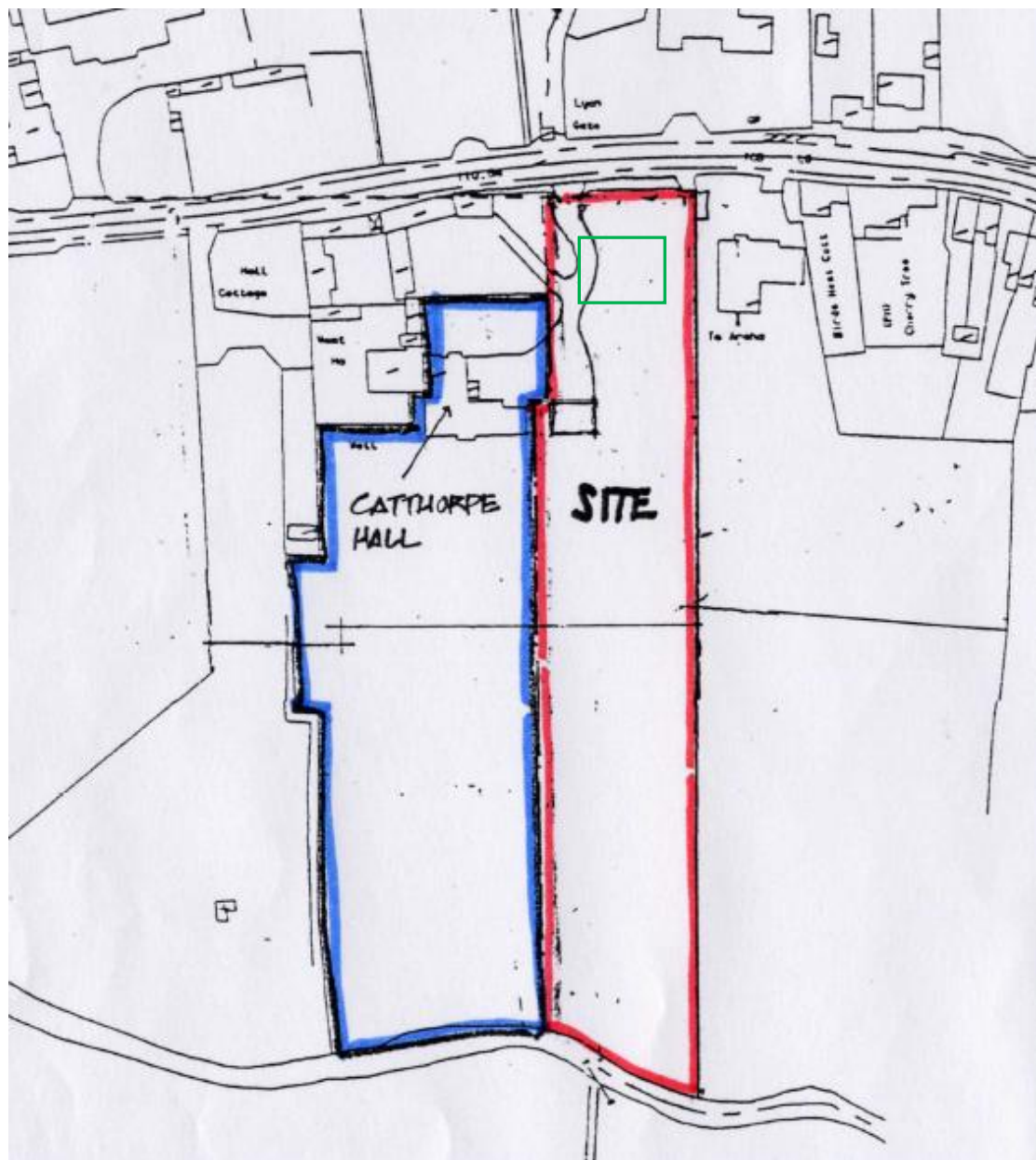


Figure 2 Approximate area of archaeological watching brief (in green).
(Not to Scale)

3. Results

The proposed development area occupied a lawn area to the north-east of the Hall. The site sloped down from the north to the south with a number of semi-mature trees. A visual survey of the proposed development area prior to work commencing indicated no standing earthworks.

The topsoil strip began within the north-easternmost corner of the proposed development area and proceeded down slope. Approximately 300mm to 400mm of topsoil was removed revealing a substratum of orange brown silty gravels. The

topsoil appeared sterile with none of the underlying gravel, suggesting it may have been imported and used to landscape this part of the garden. Towards the southern end of the proposed development area a localised deposit of gravel and pebbles was exposed. From in and around this deposit a number of sherds of medieval pottery was recovered, mainly early to middle medieval in date but also including a sherd of late Saxon pottery (see Appendix 1). The area was hand cleaned, but no discernable feature could be identified and an attempt at hand excavation also failed to define any archaeological feature. The gravel and pebbles was not compact enough to represent a floor surface. Significantly, the whole deposited measured 1.2m (4 foot) wide, a standard size of machine bucket. It is possible, therefore, that this deposit, which included the medieval pottery, was re-deposited within a shallow machine scoop.

The topsoil strip nearer the existing driveway exposed some limited evidence of ground disturbance, but this was limited to the topsoil and had no real impact upon the underlying substratum.

4. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within the historic settlement core of Catthorpe, but no definite archaeological deposits were encountered during the course of this watching brief. However, a significant assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered, mainly early to middle medieval in date, suggesting nearby medieval occupation, possibly within the existing grounds of the Hall. There was some limited evidence of recent ground disturbance, but this did not appear to have had a significant impact upon the underlying substratum.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 6 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 6 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 1 A4 watching brief sheet
- 1 Box of finds
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2010-173)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A169. 2010.

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Historical & Archaeological Society* in due course.

6. References

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

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Figure 3 Proposed development area (looking south-east).

Appendix 1

The Post Roman Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, 11 sherds, weighing 148 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1991; Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (Table 1).

Unfortunately, all of the pottery was from unstratified contexts, but the material shows evidence of activity from at least the 12th or 13th centuries, if not before. The average sherd weight for ten of the sherds, discounting the earliest, possibly Late Saxon sherd which weighed only 3 grams, is 14.8 grams, suggesting that relatively undisturbed archaeological levels may survive in the vicinity.

Bibliography.

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Sawday, D., 1991 'Potters Marston Ware', *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **65**, 34-37.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
U/S	CG- Calcite Gritted	1	3	Flat base fragment, reduced black core, dark buff surfaces, and heavily shelled, possibly Late Saxon/Norman - St Neots type, c.850-1100
U/S	PM – Potters Marston	2	25	Body/base sherds, vessel type unknown, sooting suggests cooking pot fragments, c.1100-1400 .
U/S	PM	1	16	Simple everted jug rim, with beginnings of pouring lip, possibly turntable/wheel finished, mid 12th – 13th C.
U/S	PM	1	22	Shouldered jar with everted and externally thickened rim, 13th C.
U/S	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	1	3	c.1100-1400

U/S	LY4 – Stanion/Lyveden type A ware	1	11	c.1100-1400
U/S	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	34	c.1240/50—1400+Sooted externally
U/S	CC2 - Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	21	c.1300-1500
U/S	CC5 - Chilvers Coton ware 5	2	13	A fine version of this generally coarse ware., c.1240/50-1475+

Site/ Parish: Cathorpe Hall, Main Street, Cathorpe, Leics Accession No.: Document Ref: cathorpe1.docx Material: pottery Site Type: village core	Submitter: G. Richards Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 20.9.10 Method of Recovery: wb Job Number: 09-549
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Appendix 2

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Land adjacent to Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 552 780

Client: Mrs G Curley

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01848/FUL

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, during ground works for a proposed agricultural building and detached garage as required by the Planning Authority, in connection with a planning application for a new dwelling on land adjacent to Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 552 780; Planning application Nos. 06/01848/FUL).

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the *Brief For archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief) at land adjacent to Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe, Leicestershire NGR SP 552 780* (LCCHNET 20.11.2008).

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

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The site is located on land adjacent to Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe, Leicestershire, Leicestershire and a planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new dwelling.

2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have detailed the level of archaeological work required (their brief of 20.11.2008).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record shows that the application site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest, within the historic core of Catthorpe village close to the medieval church (HER Ref: MLE1356), earthworks (MLE1360) and close to the possible location of a Roman pavement (MLE1358)

3 Aims

3.1 *Archaeological watching brief.* Through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of 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 examination of groundworks by an experienced archaeologist as detailed in the 'brief'. If any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 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, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 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, Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council.

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 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception 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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05.02.2009

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: Land adjacent to Catthorpe Hall, Main Street, Catthorpe, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 552 780

Client: Mrs G Curley

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01848/FUL

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an historic buildings appraisal and archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve inspection of buildings and observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) 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.

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

27.09.2008

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