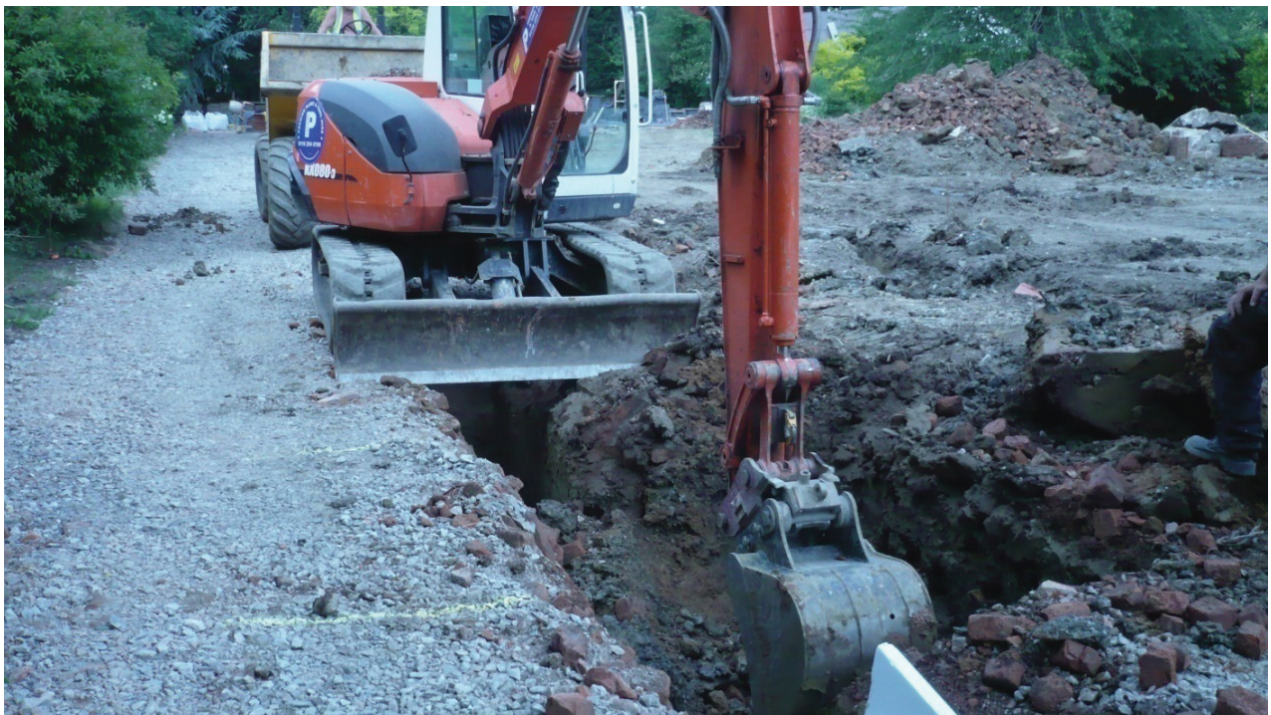


**An Archaeological watching Brief
On land at 56, The Ridgeway,
Rothley, Leicestershire,
NGR: SK 574 126**

Daniel Stone



ULAS Report No 2009-081
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An Archaeological watching Brief
On land at 56, The Ridgeway,
Rothley, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 574 126

Daniel Stone

For: PHD Ltd

Checked by

Signed:  **Date:** 08/10/2009

Name: Vicki Score

Approved by

Signed:  **Date:** 08/10/2009

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An Archaeological Watching Brief of land at 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 574 126.

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 574 126 on the 26th of June 2009 on behalf of PHD Ltd. during groundworks for the construction of a new residential dwelling and attached garage. No significant archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession code XA149.2009.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken on the 26th of June 2009 for PHD Ltd. during groundworks for the construction of a residential dwelling on land at 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 574 126 .

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended archaeological monitoring of groundworks in order to identify and record any deposits of archaeological importance (Appendix 1). A specification for the work was subsequently prepared by ULAS on behalf of the client (Appendix 2) to address the requirements of Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority.

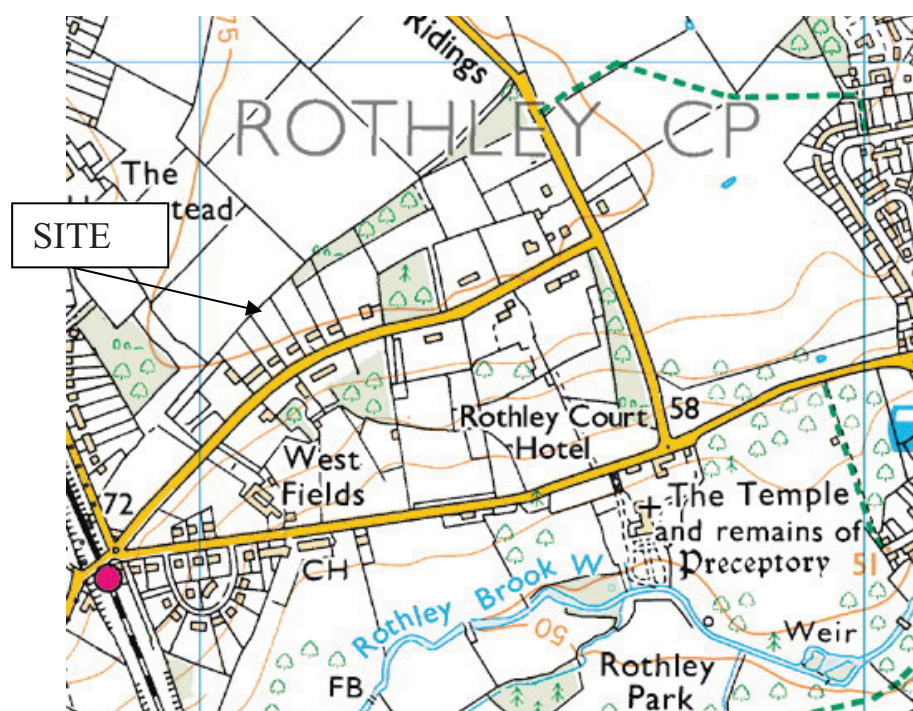


Figure 1: Site location 1: 25,000 ,
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.)

2. Site description, topology and geology

The site lies within the village of Rothley (SK 574 126; Fig. 1) and comprises a private residence set within large grounds which was demolished prior to the commencement of the new construction. The underlying geology of the site is mostly Mudstone (Barnby Member to the west and Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation to the east) overlain with Glaciofluvial and Head Deposits (British Geological Survey of Great Britain 126).

3. Archaeological and historic background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. There are several prehistoric sites recorded in the vicinity, including a Bronze Age cremation (HER Ref MLE881) and a sword, which may indicate another burial (MLE6289). There are significant Roman remains nearby, with a Roman villa (a scheduled monument), to the west (MLE891), and find spots for items such as Roman coins (MLE7777 & MLE7778). The important medieval site of Rothley Temple also lies nearby (MLE898). This is a 13th century preceptory (a manor or estate owned and run by an order of knights and governed by a preceptor) and associated chapel (MLE13287). In the 16th century a country house was built on the site of the preceptory (MLE13286). Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains from various periods will be affected by the development.

4. Aims and objectives

Through archaeological monitoring of groundwork:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct*, (2008) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008), the Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire, (Leicestershire County Council) and referenced the ULAS Recording Manual.

The project involved the monitoring of the stripping of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. Provision was made for the investigation and recording of any archaeological deposits which might be located during the course of the works and spoil was also examined for artefacts. The methodology and recording systems are detailed in the design specification (Appendix 2).

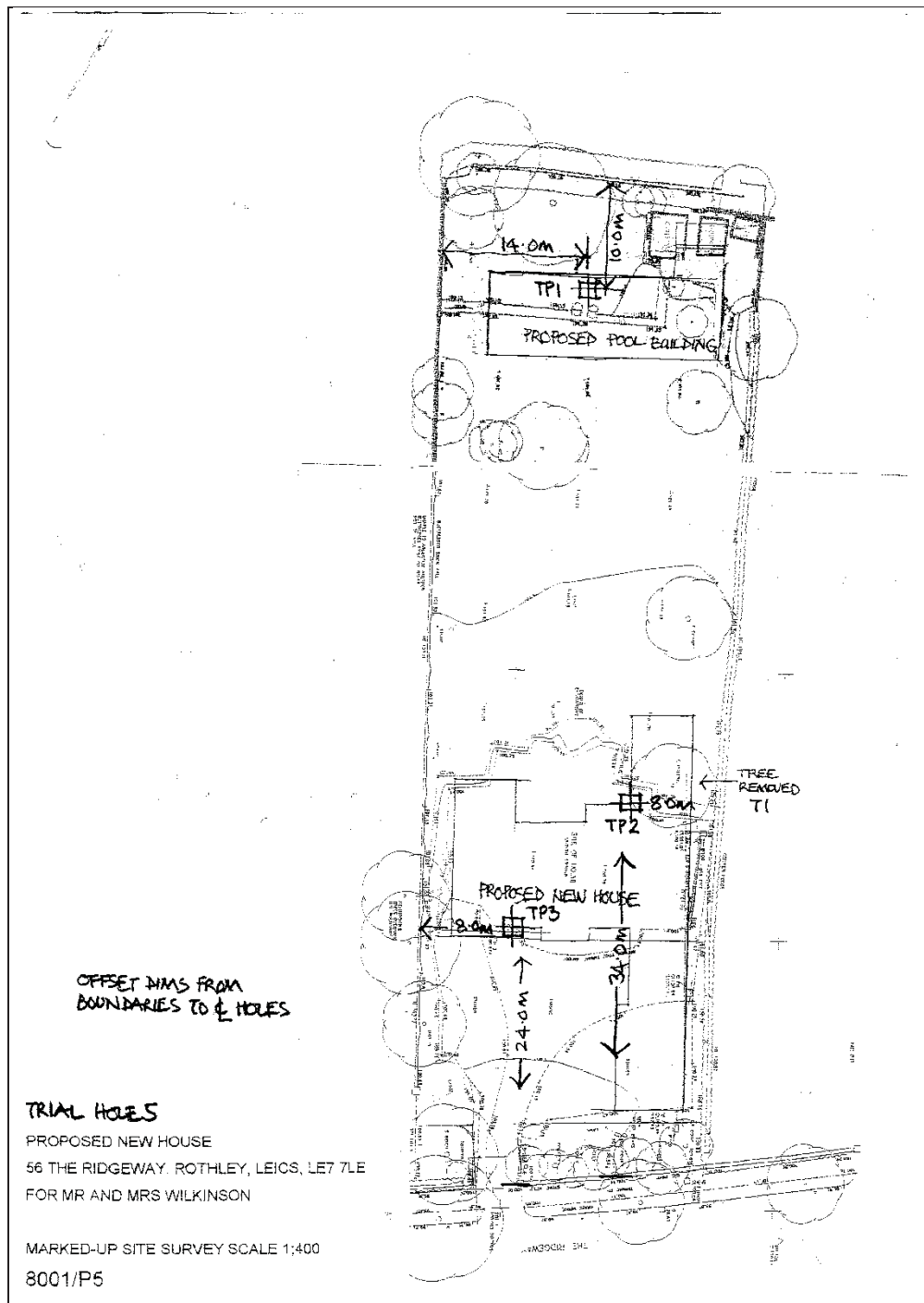


Figure 2: Plan of proposed development provided by the client (not to scale)

5. Results

Prior to archaeological attendance, the foundation trenches of the garage and residential dwelling had already been excavated and some of the concrete had been pored. The superstructure of the pool house to the rear of the property was under construction. Following a site inspection, the sections of those trenches open were observed in order to identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and a photographic record was made.

The foundation trenches were approximately 0.8m wide and 1.2m deep, with the eastern, gable end *c.* 2m depth and 1m wide (Figs 2 - 4). The front of the new dwelling lay over the foundations of the former demolished building. Consequently, the ground in this area comprised mixed deposits of made-up ground with disturbed modern overburden and in situ foundations. Where the soil profile survived at the rear of the new residential dwelling, *c.* 0.2m of clean sterile topsoil was observed over *c.* 0.2m of light brown, silty clay subsoil. This overlay compacted yellow-brown and blue-grey clay subsoil. This layer was interpreted as the natural substratum and was apparent for the full depth of each foundation trench. The deposits which lay above the natural substratum may be indicative of recent garden soils to the rear of the former property at the site. No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the sections and inspection of the spoil on site produced no archaeological finds.



Figure 3: Front of site showing new residence foundation trenches (view south)



Figure 4: Working shot of west gable wall foundation trench (view north)

6. Conclusion

Previous reduction of the ground levels had reduced the topsoil and subsoil within the area of the footprint of the buildings which formerly occupied the site. Further construction activity had caused additional ground disturbance. Observation of foundation trenches and other ground works confirmed the absence of significant surviving archaeological deposits within the area observed.

7. Archive

The site archive consists of 1 copy of this report, 1 watching brief recording form, 1 CD of 10 digital photos, 1 contact sheet of 10 digital photos, 1 photo index form. It will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, under accession number XA149.2009.

8. Acknowledgements and publication

I would like to thank the client and representatives Sean Sibson, and Martyn Snutch for their help and cooperation on Site, the project was managed by Richard Buckley and the fieldwork carried out and report produced by the author, Daniel Stone, both of ULAS.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project.

9. Oasis

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief of land at 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, NGR: SK 574 126.
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Dan Stone
Previous/Future work	unknown
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 574 126
Start/end dates of field work	26 th June 2009
Archive Recipient	Leicester County Council
Study Area *	2 Ha

10. Bibliography

IfA, 2008, Codes of Conduct.

IfA, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Leicestershire County Council, Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire

Appendix 1: planning advice letter.

Planning Advice Letter

Mrs K Brightman (Planning Officer)
Planning Services
Charnwood Borough Council
Southfields
Loughborough
Leics LE11 2TN

Date: 13th May 2008
My ref: CLE4376/HW
Your ref: P/08/1056/2
Contact: Richard Clark
Phone: (0116) 305 8322
Fax: (0116) 305 7965
Email: riclark@leics.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Brightman,

Planning Application No: P/08/1056/2: Erection of two storey dwelling with associated garages and erection of a single storey building to enclose a swimming pool; 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley.

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. There are several prehistoric sites recorded in the vicinity, including a Bronze Age cremation (HER Ref. No. MLE881) and a sword, which may indicate another burial (MLE6289). There are significant Roman remains nearby, with a Roman villa (a scheduled monument) to the west (MLE891), and findspots for items such as Roman coins (MLE7777 & MLE7778). An important medieval site also lies nearby: Rothley Temple. This is a C13th preceptory (a manor or estate owned and run by an order of knights and governed by a preceptor, MLE898) and associated chapel (MLE13287). In the C16th a country house was built on the site of the preceptory (MLE13286). Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains from various periods will be affected by the development.

To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant should provide professional archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made, to the satisfaction of your authority in conjunction with your archaeological advisors in this Department's Archaeology Section. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

The applicant should, if planning permission is granted, also obtain a suitable written Specification and costings for the archaeological recording from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority. This should be submitted to this Archaeology Section, as archaeological advisors to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

The Specification should comply with the above mentioned Brief, with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice". It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.

We therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning condition, to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

1. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.

This condition is as advised in paragraph 55 of DoE Circular 11/95. The "Programme of Work" referred to in the recommended condition will in this case be the archaeological recording during development, in accordance with the Specification to be agreed.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Please will you ensure a copy of the Decision Notice is sent to us in due course, to enable us to continue to monitor and safeguard the archaeology of this site. Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clark
Senior Planning Archaeologist

c.c. Mr Peter Hill (Agent)

Appendix 2: Design Specification.

Design Specification for archaeological work
Job title: 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire
NGR: SK574126

Client: PHD Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. P/08/1056/2

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 new dwelling and detached garage as required by the Planning Authority, on land at 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire (SK574126; Planning application **P/08/1056/2**).

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (Appendix 1).

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 at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, 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 (Appendix 1).

2.2 *Archaeological Background (taken from advice letter)*

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. There are several prehistoric sites recorded in the vicinity, including a Bronze Age cremation (HER Ref. No. MLE881) and a sword, which may indicate another burial (MLE6289). There are significant Roman remains nearby, with a Roman villa (a scheduled monument) to the west (MLE891), and findspots for items such as Roman coins (MLE7777 & MLE7778). An important medieval site also lies nearby: Rothley Temple. This is a C13th preceptory (a manor or estate owned and run by an order of knights and governed by a preceptor, MLE898) and associated chapel (MLE13287). In the C16th a country house was built on the site of the preceptory (MLE13286). Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains from various periods will be affected by the development.

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 professional archaeologist. 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 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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25 June 2009

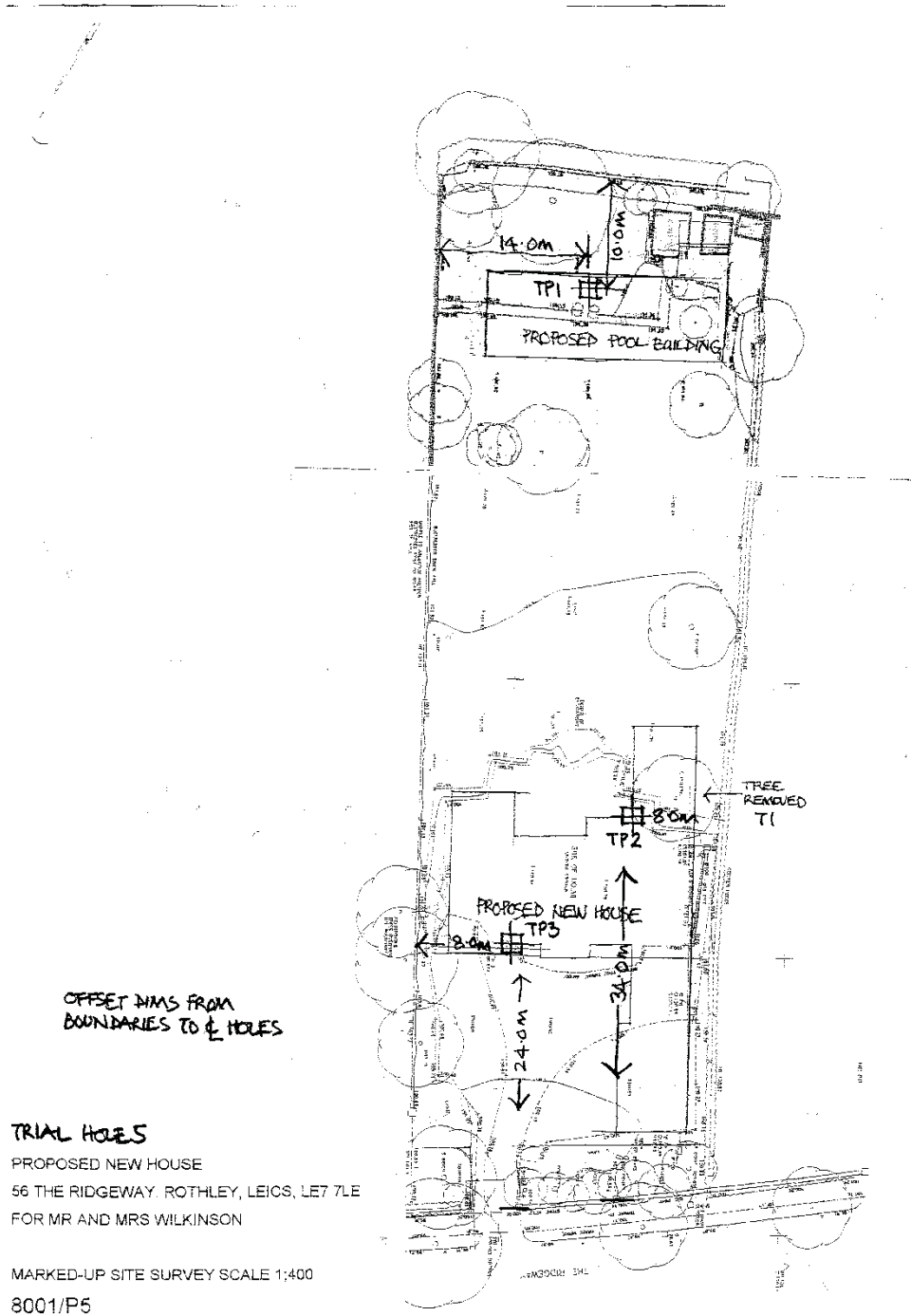


Fig. 1 Site Layout

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: 56, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire
NGR: SK574126

Client: PHD Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. P/08/1056/2

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 Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

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

Richard Buckley
25.6.2