



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On land at 32, The Ridgeway,
Rothley, Leicestershire
(NGR: SK 573 126)**

Greg Jones



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On land at 32, The Ridgeway,
Rothley, Leicestershire
(NGR: SK 573 126)**

Greg Jones

**For: Metz Architects
Planning Application No: 08/2928/2**

Checked by

Signed:  **Date:** ...17.08.2009.

Name: .Vicki Score.....

Approved by

Signed:  **Date:** ...18.08.2009.

Name: Patrick Clay.....

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
[Website: http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/)

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, (NGR: SK 573 126) between the 18th of May and the 6th of July 2009. This work was undertaken on behalf of Metz Architects during the groundworks for the construction of a new residential development and associated garage. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during this work except for one sherd of unstratified Saxon pottery. The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A118.2009].

1. Introduction

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Metz Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief exercise during the groundworks for the construction of a new residential development and associated garage on land at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 573 126; Planning application no. 08/2928/2). The watching brief was undertaken between the 18th May and the 6th July 2009.

1.2 To fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council (LCC HNET), in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority Harborough District Council, requested that an archaeological watching brief exercise be undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site. This is detailed in their *Brief for archaeological watching brief at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire (NGR: 573 126)* of 10.12.2008 from LCC HNET (hereinafter the *Brief*).

2. Site Location Geology and Topography

The site lies within the village of Rothley (SK 574 126; Fig. 1). The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise 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).

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. 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 find spots for items such as Roman coins (MLE7777 & MLE7778). An important medieval site also

lies nearby: Rothley Temple. This is a 13th century 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 16th century a country house was built on the site of the preceptory (MLE13286). Consequently, there is the likelihood that buried archaeological remains from various periods will be affected by the development.



Figure 1: Site location 1:50000

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4. Methodology

4.1 All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for 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)*. The work followed the approved design specification (Appendix 2).

4.2 The archaeological watching brief involved the inspection and recording of groundworks to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

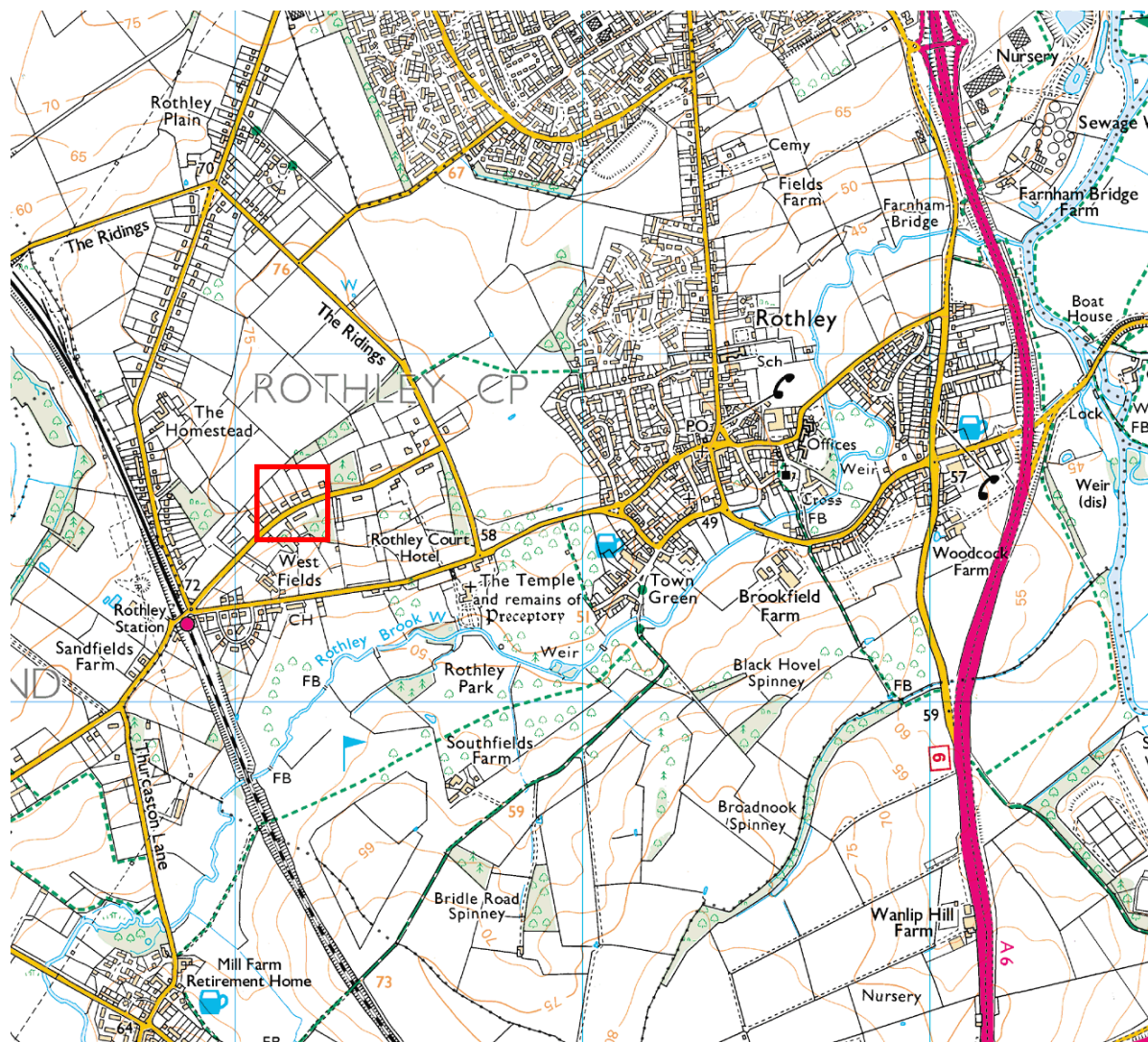


Figure 2: Site location 1:25000

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4.3 The main objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- 1. To identify the presence/absence of any 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.

4.4 Any archaeological deposits located were to be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located would be hand excavated and measured drawings of all archaeological features prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100.

4.5 Archaeological deposits would 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 was to be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

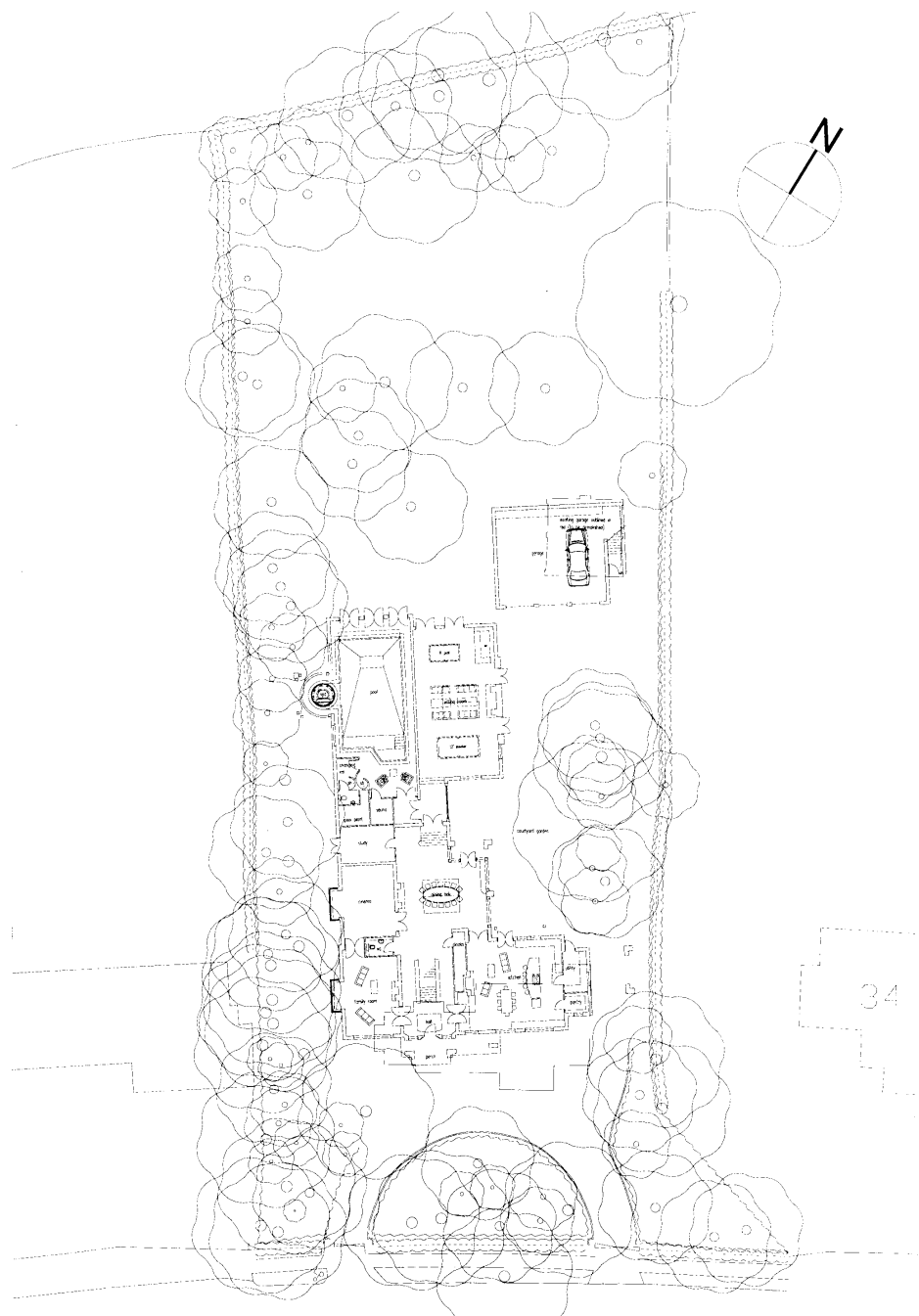


Figure 3: Site Development Plan (Map supplied by Client).

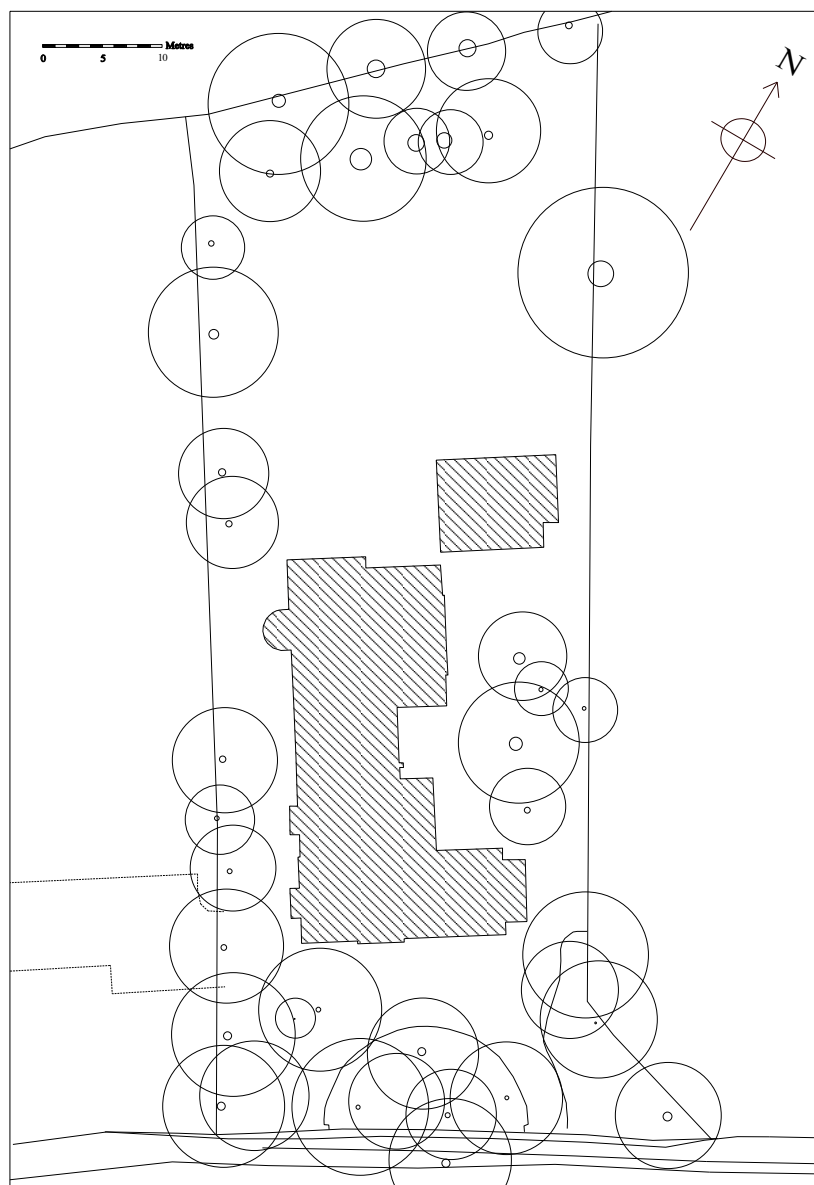


Figure 4 Areas of Excavation (in red)

5. Results

5.1 Results of the Watching Brief

5.1.1 During the groundworks an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. This work took place between the 18th May and the 6th July 2009.

5.1.2 Initial ground clearing and reduction by *c.* 0.2m revealed dark clay silt topsoil. Subsequent machining revealed light brown silty clay subsoil at a depth of *c.* 0.3 - 0.5m. Below this was revealed the natural substratum which consisted of yellowish brown clay with sandy pockets.

5.1.3 Located during the excavation of the garage at the northern corner of the site (fig. 3&4) was a single unstratified sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (see Appendix 1 below).

5.1.4 No archaeological features or deposits were located during the archaeological watching brief.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The archaeological watching brief did not locate any archaeological features or deposits during the groundworks for the construction of the new dwellings at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire, (NGR: SK 573 126).

6.2 A single sherd of unstratified Anglo-Saxon pottery discovered during the groundworks is of note. Dating from the 5th-6th century pottery and other evidence from this period is elusive.

6.3 The archaeological observation of foundation trenches and other ground works has confirmed the absence of significant surviving archaeological deposits within the area observed. However the Anglo-Saxon pottery does suggest the presence of activity during the 5th – 6th century in the vicinity.

7. Archive

7.1 The site archive consists of 58 colour digital photographs and 4 watching brief recording forms and will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession code: [X.A118.2009].

Archive accession code [X.A118.2009] contents:

Copy of Report:	Recording Sheets:	Digital Colour Photographs:
1	4	58

8. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Metz Architects, for their assistance and co-operation on site. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2008. *Design Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire (SK 573 126)*. ULAS Ref: 09/609

Greg Jones BA (Hons) MA

Senior Archaeological Supervisor
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: gj28@le.ac.uk

31.07.2009



Figure 5 General view looking east



Figure 6 General view looking north



Figure 7 section looking north-west



Figure 8 General view looking south

Oasis Record

Project Name	32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Greg Jones
Previous/Future work	No previous work
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 573 126
Start/end dates of field work	06.05.09/23.07.09
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	c.1000 square metres

Appendix 1: Anglo-Saxon pottery

Alice Forward

One sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, weighing 17g was retrieved, unstratified, in excavation. The sherd is granite tempered and can be assigned the fabric code SX3 in reference to the Highcross Anglo-Saxon fabric series (Cooper and Forward, forthcoming).

SX3 – Granite: angular granite inclusions, poorly sorted with a quartz mix. The inclusions range from 0.5-3.0mm with a density of 5 to 10 percent.

Rothley is situated near to the Charnwood Forest granitic outcrop which has been recognised as a source for Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon temper for pottery production (Williams and Vince, 1997). With this in mind it is not surprising that this sherd is tempered with granite.

Site/ Parish: Rothley	Submitter: G. Jones
Accession No.: XA118.2009	Identifier: A Forward
Document Ref: Rothley AS pottery	Date of Identification: 13.08.09
Material: pottery	Method of recovery: Watching Brief
Site Type: Outskirts of village	Job Number: 09/609

Bibliography

Cooper N. and Forward A., forthcoming 'The Anglo-Saxon pottery' in R. Buckley and N Cooper (eds) *Excavations in the Highcross Quarter, Leicester 2004-2006*.

Williams D. and Vince A., 1997 'The characterisation and interpretation of Early and Middle Saxon granitic tempered pottery in England', *Medieval Archaeology* 214-220.

Appendix 2:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 573 126

Client: Metz Architects

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 08/2928/2

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 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire (SP 573 126; Planning application Nos. 08/2928/2).

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (LCCHNET 10.12.2008).

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 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 (their advice of 10.12.2008).

2.2 Archaeological Background

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)

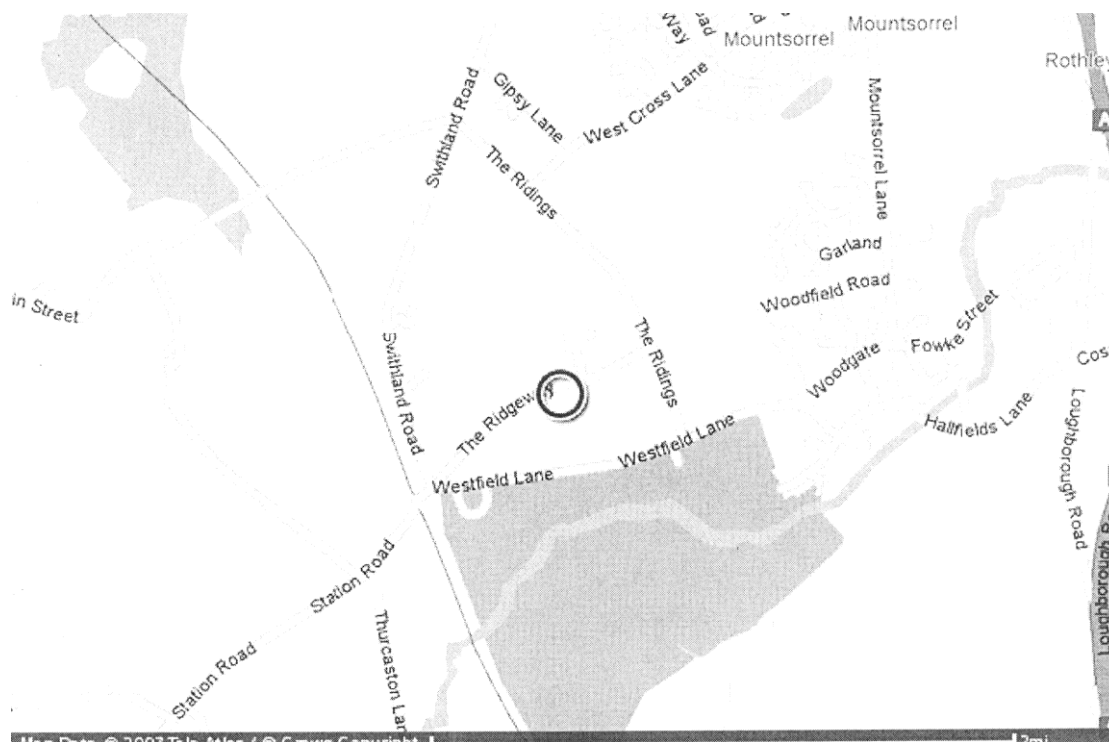
RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

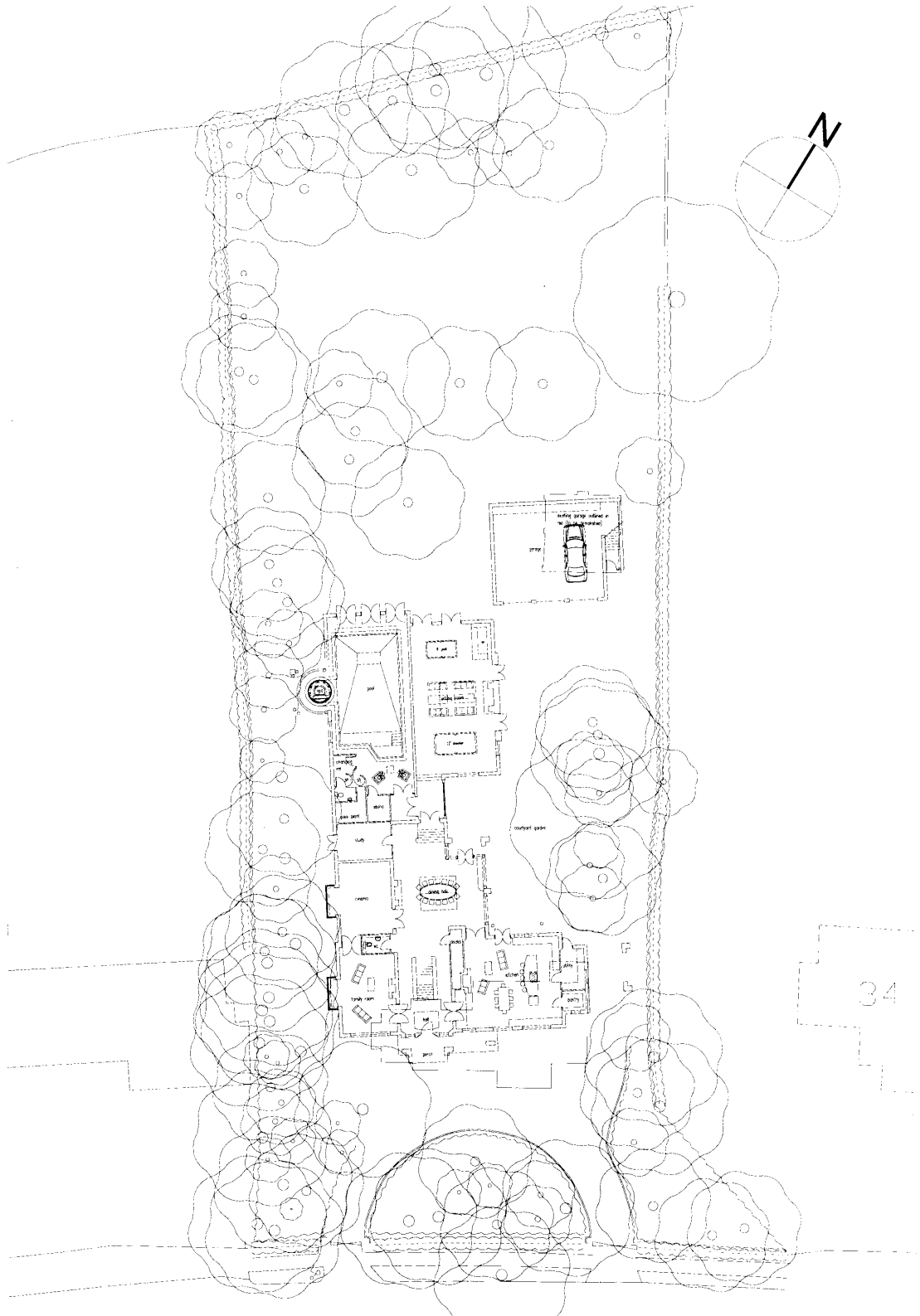
SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Patrick Clay
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

24.03.2009





Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: 32, The Ridgeway, Rothley, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 573 126

Client: Metz Architects

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 08/2928/2

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.

Patrick Clay
24.03.2009

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



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