



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief during
groundwork's for a new hall
at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane,
Sileby, Leicestershire.**

NGR: (SK 600 153)

Martin Shore



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief during
Groundwork's for a new hall
at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire.**

NGR: (SK 600 153)

Martin Shore

For: B3 Architects

Checked by

Signed:



...Date: 07.10.2009

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An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks for a new hall at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire (SK 600 153)

Martin Shore

Summary

An archaeological watching brief carried out at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire did not locate any evidence of medieval or earlier archaeological deposits. This was probably because the location of the foundation trenches were to the rear of the medieval street line, the area probably having been used as gardens or fields. However evidence of post-medieval activity was present in the form of a stone foundation to a property boundary wall and a partially stone-lined wells The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A190.2009.

1. Introduction.

An Archaeological watching brief was carried between the 29th of May 2009 and the 6th of June 2009 during groundwork's for a new hall and glazed link to the original building at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire (SK 600 153; Planning application No. 08/00679/2).

1.2 The development area had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). Close to St Mary's church, the area lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Sileby and within the Sileby Conservation area. The area of development appeared to have been relatively undisturbed and there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains might be impacted on by the development. In view of this the planning authority had required that a watching brief, secured by a planning condition, was undertaken during any groundworks connected with the development. The scope of this was in the advice provided by the Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (LCCHNET 15.04.2008).

2. Topography and geology.

The underlying geology of the site was identified is being likely to comprise Mercia Mudstone overlain with alluvium and sand and gravels (British Geological Survey of Great Britain).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background (taken from George 2003)

The proposed development site is located within the medieval village core of Sileby, (**HER Ref: LE943/LE954/LE959**). St Mary's Church is located immediately south of Pochin Hall and dates to the 13th to 15th century (**LE948**). Two sherds of Roman pottery were located to the north of Ratcliffe Road in uprooted tree roots (**LE949**). An early Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 410 to AD 650) cruciform brooch was found north of Mountsorrel Lane (**LE6115**). A medieval timber-framed two bay building is located on Cossington Road (**LE957**) to the south of the

development. A post-medieval pit and drains are located on Little Church Lane (LE955 and LE956) to the south-west of the development site. Pochin Hall itself dates from 1898.

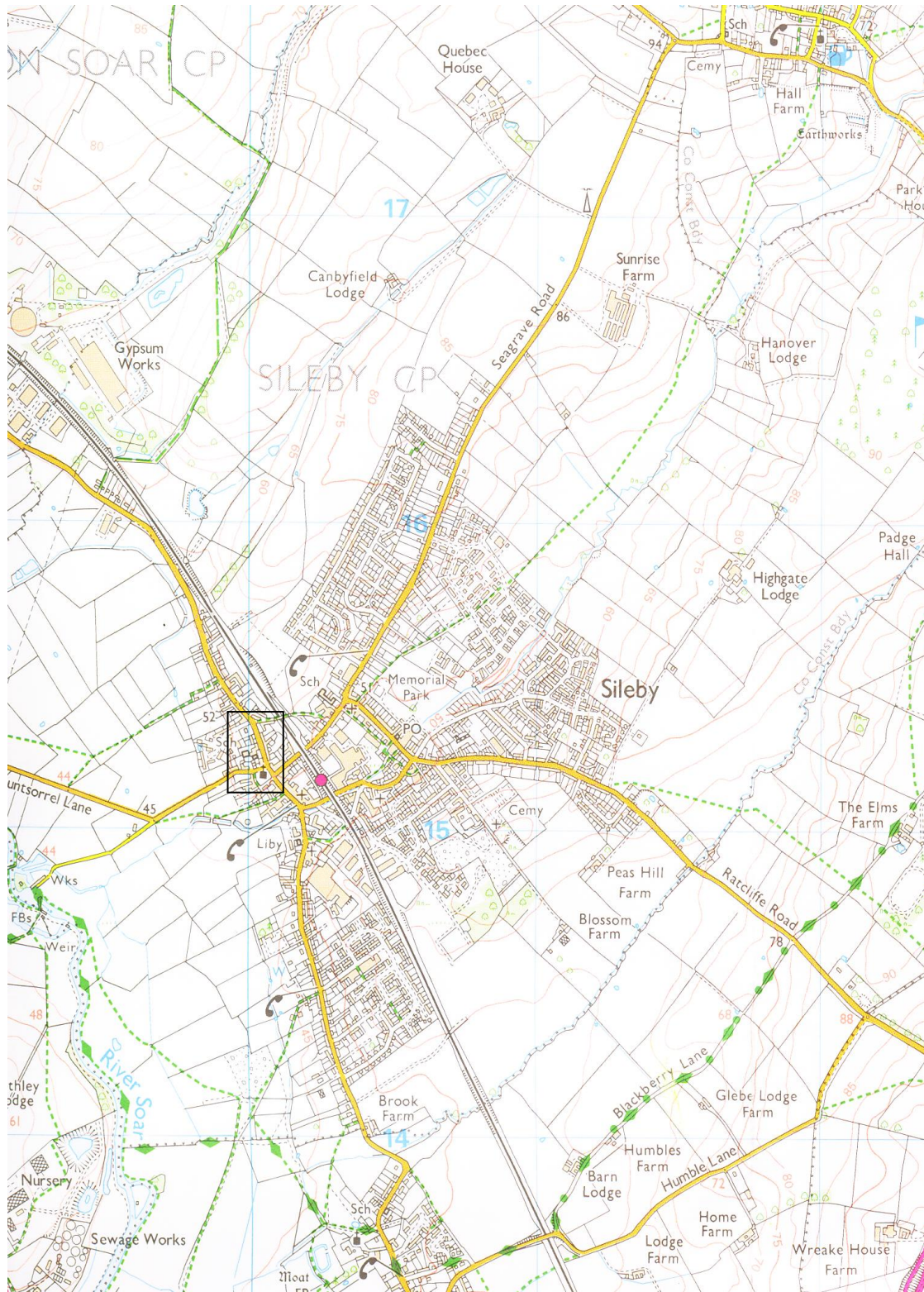


Figure 1: Location map showing area of development. 1 km grid squares. (Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495).

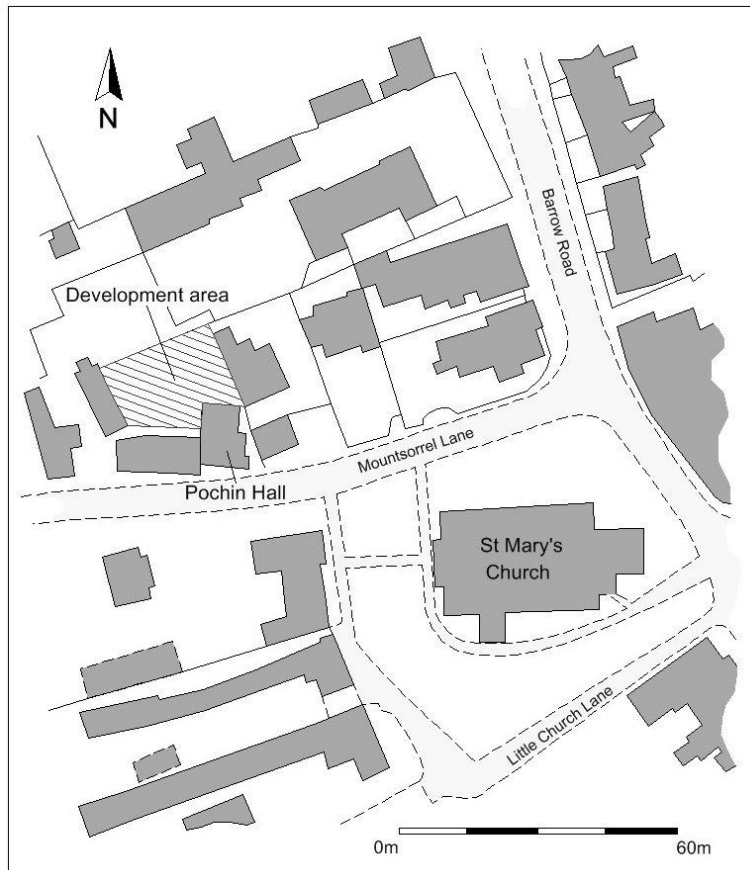


Figure 2: Location of development area.

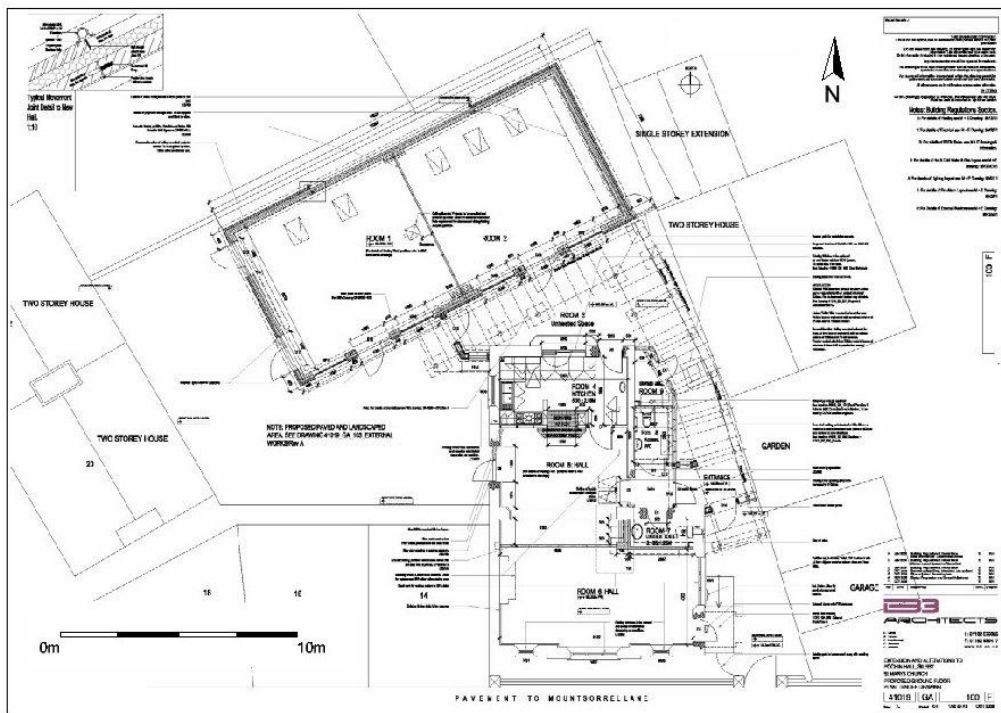


Figure 3: Development plan showing the new hall and linked walkway.

Sileby is referred to in the Domesday Book as 8 and a half carucates of land leased by Arnold de Bois from Hugh de Grantesmaisnell. There was “Land for 5 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs; 4 slaves. 18 villagers with 4 Freemen and 4 smallholders have 6 ploughs. 2 mills at 30s; meadow, 60 acres (and) Hugh also has in Leicester ... 13 burgesses who belong to Sileby” (Morgan 1979). The proposed development area is located within the medieval core of Sileby.

Enclosure of Sileby was awarded in 1760, with 2,153 acres being enclosed. This resulted in the layout of fields, roads and hedgerows that can be seen today. Fields were laid out in a uniform pattern and surrounded by a hedge, generally of hawthorn. Farmhouses were also located on their own land instead of inside the village centre (Sileby Village Newsletter 2003).

4. Aims and Objectives.

The aims through archaeological monitoring and observation were:

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

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in accordance and follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

5. Results.

During the attendance between the 29th of May 2009 and the 16th of June 2009, the stripping of the topsoil prior to the excavation of the new hall foundation footings was monitored. The area was stripped using a small mechanical excavator. It was noted during the excavation that there was a considerable build up of very dark grey brown topsoil; this was about 1.00m in depth, and seemed to have been deposited in the early 20th century.

After the excavation of the topsoil, the natural substratum was exposed; this comprised of gravels with large areas of orange sand, the natural being disturbed in parts by late 19th to early 20th century pits and other disturbances. At this level the foundation footings were excavated into the natural subsoil at a depth of 0.90m-1.00m in depth, having a width of 0.60m. The excavated footings revealed the natural substratum in section and the late Victorian disturbances.

At the northern end of the development area was a red brick retaining wall. Following the stripping of the topsoil, the brick wall was observed to be built on what appeared to be an earlier mortar bonded stone wall. The stone was of a local Charnwood igneous origin ('granite'). Unfortunately this could not be dated.

Modifications within the original part of the building uncovered a stone lined well, 1.00m wide and 6.00m deep. The granite lining was 1.60m in depth, with the remaining depth of the well being unlined, and cutting through the natural Mercia mudstone group which lay beneath the upper sand and gravel substrata. The stein used to line the well was again of a local Charnwood igneous origin. The date of the well was unknown but is likely to have been associated with a previous dwelling which fronted Mountsorrel Lane.

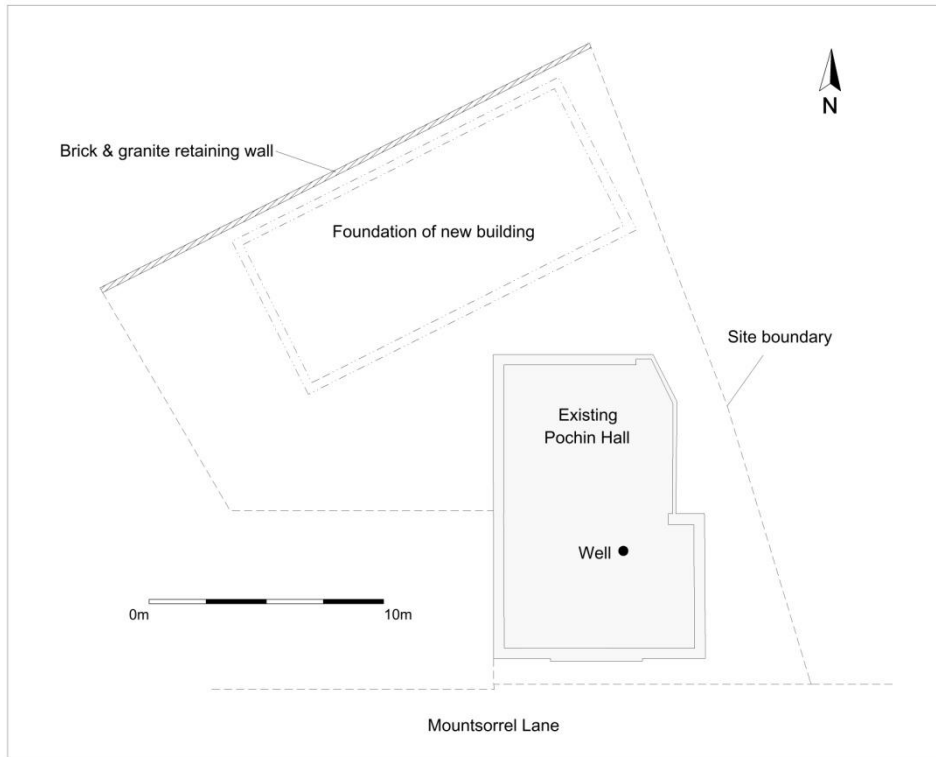


Figure 4: Location plan of areas observed.



Plate 1: Foundation trenches looking north-east



Plate 2: Section of foundation trench showing exposed natural subsoils.



Plate 3: Brick retaining wall overlying earlier stone wall



Plate 4: Partially stone-lined well

6. Conclusion.

The watching brief proved to be negative of any obvious archaeological deposits, which was probably because the location of the foundation trenches for the new hall were to the rear of the medieval street line, the area probably being gardens or fields. However a well of probable post-medieval date was located (Plate 3). This was partially lined with Charnwood igneous stone blocks ('granite'), the remainder being cut through the natural Mercia Mudstone group substratum. It appears that the lining was thought to be necessary where the well cut through the looser sands and gravels closer to the surface but not where it cut the deeper more stable Mercia mudstone.

To the north a brick wall was observed to lie on top of Charnwood igneous foundations. Although undated both this and the stone-lined well are likely to be associated with earlier buildings on the site and may be of 18th-19th century date.

7. Archive and Publication.

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will normally be presented within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive will consist of 1 copy of this report, a watching brief recording form, 1 colour digital photo contact sheet, and 1 CD containing 12 digital photos. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, under Accession number X.A190.2009.

8. Acknowledgements.

I would like to thank Leicestershire County Council for their help and co-operation. The project was managed by Patrick Clay, the fieldwork was carried out by Martin Shore. A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and any relevant period journals in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

9. Oasis Record.

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief during Groundwork's for a Hall at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire.
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Martin Shore
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Gardens
Development Type	New Hall
Reason for	PPG16

Investigation	
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 600 153
Start/end dates of field work	29.5.09-16.6.09
Archive Recipient	
Study Area *	c. 0.06 ha.

10. Bibliography.

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

George, S., 2003 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a Residential Development at Brook Street and King Street, Sileby, Leicestershire (SK 603 152)* ULAS Report 2003-078

Morgan, P. (ed.) 1979 *Domesday Book 22 Leicestershire*. Phillimore and Co. Ltd

Sileby Village Newsletter 2003

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Appendix.

Design Specification.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 600 153

Client: B3 Architects

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 08/0769/2

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 the erection of a new hall and glazed link between original and new building at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Road, Sileby, Leicestershire (SK 600 153); Planning application Nos. 08/00679/2).

1.3 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (LCCHNET 15.04.2008).

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* (LCC).

2.1 *Context of the Project*

2.1.1 The site is located at Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire and a planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new hall and adjoining link.

2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have detailed the level of archaeological work required (their advice of 15.04.2008).

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, within the medieval core of Sileby.

3 *Aims*

3.1 *Archaeological watching brief.* Through archaeological inspection and recording of groundwork's 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 groundwork's 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 palaeosoils 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 groundwork's.

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 groundwork's. 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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Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: Pochin Hall, Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 600 153

Client: B3 Architects

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 08/0769/2

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 groundwork's 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
01.05.2009

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