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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological watching brief at
Lombard Street, Orston,
Nottinghamshire.
(NGR SK 769 408)**



David Parker


ULAS Report No. 2010 -179
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Lombard Street, Orston,
Nottinghamshire (NGR SK 769 408)**

David Parker

For Carling Construction Contracting Ltd

Checked by Project Manager

Signed  **Date:** 29.09.2010
Name: ...Patrick Clay.....

University of Leicester Archaeological Services
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**An Archaeological Evaluation at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire
(SK 769 408)**

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An archaeological watching brief at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire (SK 769 408)

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1. Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire (SK 769 408) in June 2010. Four areas were observed under full archaeological supervision which showed 0.2 - 0.3m of disturbed and redeposited modern disturbance overlying the natural substratum.

2. Introduction

The site is located at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire (SK 769 408) and comprised of a number of disused works buildings. Planning permission has been granted subject to conditions for the construction of 10 one bedroom apartments. Nottinghamshire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested a watching brief to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The archaeological work followed the provisions of Planning Policy Statement 5. Planning and the Historic Environment (PPS5; DCLG 2010). The watching brief followed Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the design specification (Appendix 1) approved by Nottinghamshire County Council as Historic Environment advisors to the planning authority.

The development area covers *c.* 2.5 ha. at a height of *c.* 30m OD on calcareous clay substratum overlying Lower Lias clays (Soil Environment Services 2007).

3. Historical background (From http://www.orstonparish.co.uk/html/orston_history.html.)

The name "Orston" originates from the old English "Ordricestone" meaning "The Farmstead of Ordric" and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book 1086 as Oschintone. The Domesday entry suggests that Orston was larger and richer than its neighbouring villages, comparable with Bingham, with around 150 to 175 inhabitants. Originally the Crown owned the Manor at Orston but it later passed to the Dukes of Rutland. From 1632 until 1911, when it was broken up, the Earl of Kingston and the Pierrepont and Manvers of Thoresby family were owners of the Manor. This was situated on the left hand side of the path to Thoroton at the top of High Street. As it was not occupied by the Lord of the Manor it was rented out as a farm for a long time to the Kerchival family. In 1840, the Manor House was demolished and Manor Farm at the top of Orston Hill built to replace it.

The church, while not as grandiose as that at Bottesford, is significantly larger than most of its neighbours and many in the Vale of Belvoir and is an indication of the

prosperity of the village. The present church building dates from the early 12th century, although there is evidence of much rebuilding, alteration and extension since then. Originally the church at Orston was given to the Bishop of Lincoln who replaced the pre-conquest building with a more imposing, permanent structure. The Rectory now known as Orston Hall also reflected the prosperity of the local church.

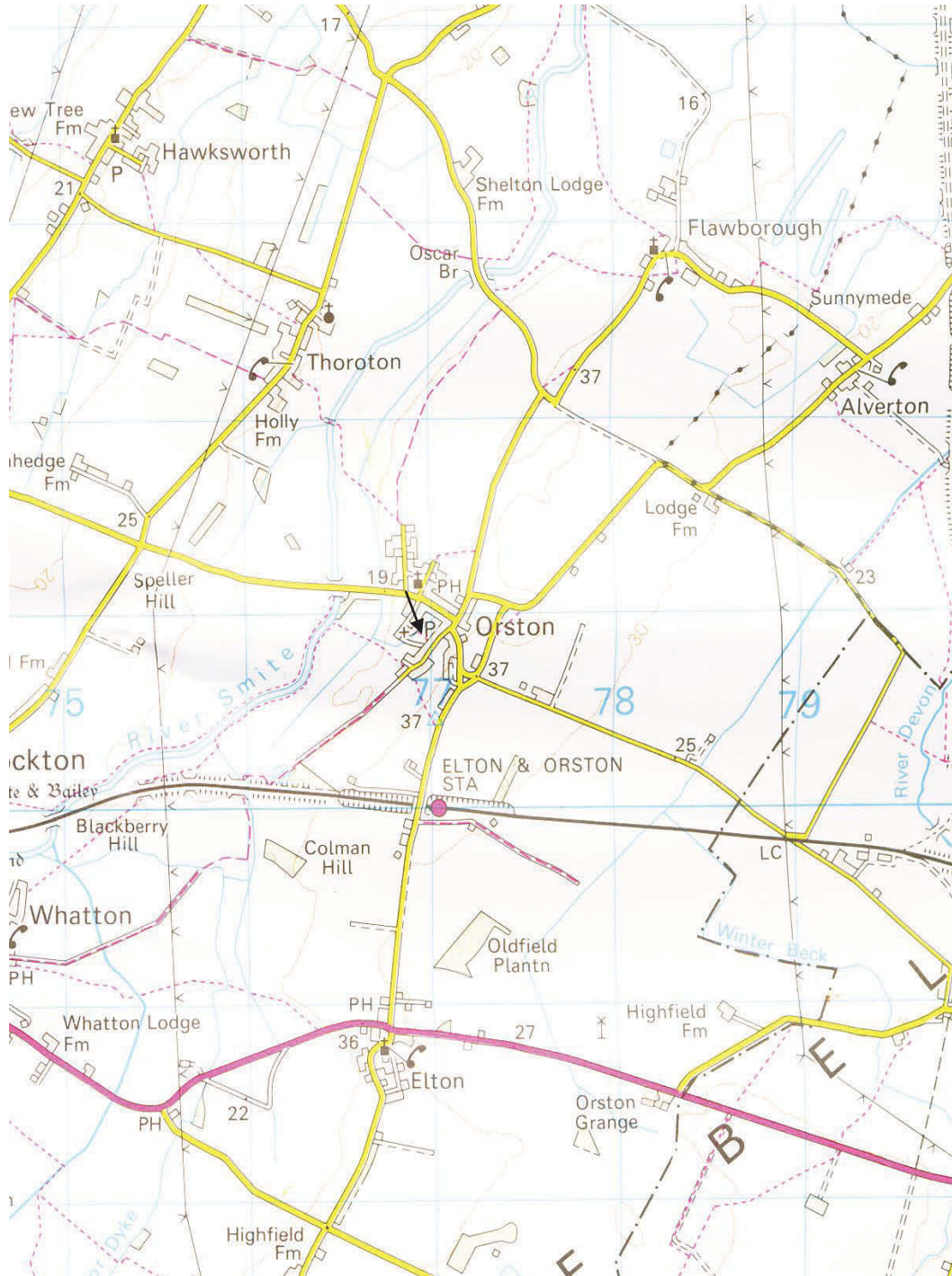


Figure 1 Location of Orston with development area arrowed

During the second half of the 19th century a large gypsum mine and plaster works („The Royal Plaster Works’) was located between Lombard Street and Chapel Street. In 1866 a much larger works was established next to the railway line at the end of Pit

Lane and between 1868 and 1871, it accounted for about 8 per cent of the country's entire gypsum plaster production. Opencast quarrying continued into the 20th century.

The 1884 Ordnance survey map of the area shows a possible agricultural building occupying the development area. The gypsum mine lies *c.* 110m north of the site. There are few changes in the land use on the site from Ordnance survey maps between 1915 and 1974 when several new buildings and silos had been constructed, relating to its change of use to a maltings. A borehole survey had revealed *c.* 0.5m depth of modern disturbance overlying the calcareous clay natural substratum (Soil Environment Services 2007).

4. Archaeological Objectives

Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors the objectives of the 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.

5. Methodology

The site was visited after the removal of the concrete foundations and the groundworks were observed by the project archaeologist. In view of the extent of modern disturbance that was revealed and the results of the borehole survey three test pits were excavated to assess the extent of this disturbance across the site. Topsoil and modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket. In view of the probable disturbance to the site three test pits were opened initially, all 1m square (Figure 2) to establish the depth of disturbance on the site from the overlying concrete which had previously occupied the site. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the test-pit excavation.

The trenches were examined by hand cleaning to locate any archaeological deposits, which were planned and sample-excavated. The trench locations were recorded and all plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

6. Results

Four areas were investigated (Figure.2). Area 1 was previously exposed prior to the watching brief and showed disturbed natural substratum associated with the building of the works buildings. The works in this area also uncovered a cold water storage tank or well (Figure 3), probably of 19th century date and associated with the lands previous industrial use (Figure 2). Areas 2 and 3 again showed evidence of the natural substratum having been previously disturbed by construction of the works buildings. showed the same results and area 4 showed a small amount of topsoil covering the undisturbed natural.

7. Conclusion

Judging from an examination the large area excavated in area 1 the site appears to have been extensively disturbed down to and into the natural substratum. This most likely occurred during the construction and demolition of the works buildings that formally occupied the area. Areas 2, 3 and 4 have shown this to be the case across the rest of the site. Therefore the site is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

8. Archive

The site archive (NCMG 2010-32) will be held by Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. It consists of a watching brief record and photographs. A brief summary of this report will be published in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*.

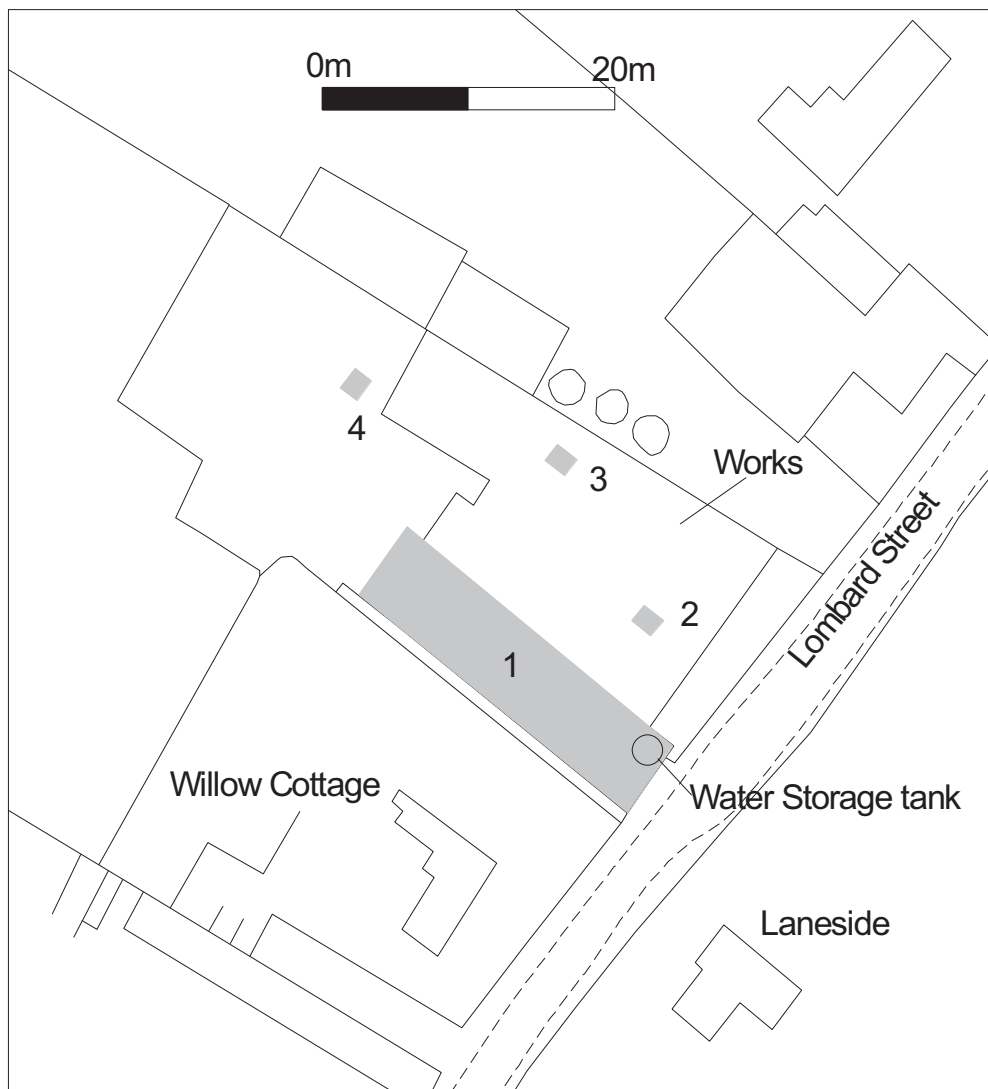


Figure 2. Location plan.

9. Acknowledgements

The Watching Brief was carried out by David Parker. Patrick Clay also of ULAS, managed the project. We would like to thank Carling Construction contracting Ltd for their help and co-operation with this work.

10. Bibliography

Soil Environment Ltd 2007 *Contaminated Land Report. Desk study and Risks assessment. Lombard Street Orston.*

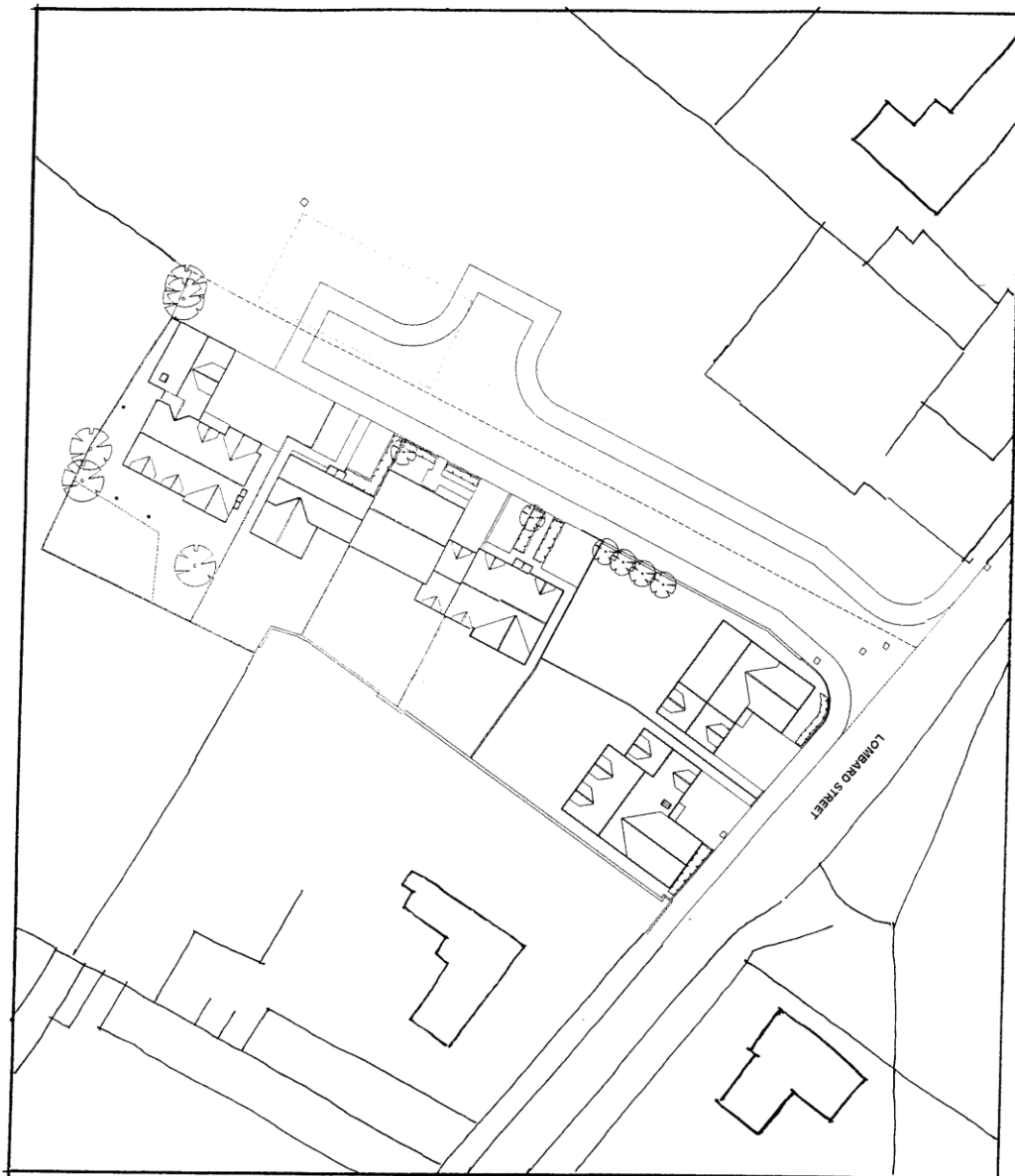
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28.9.2010



Figure 3: Cold water tank



PROPOSED DWELLINGS
LOMBARD STREET
ORSTON
NOTTS

location plan

scale:1:500

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey
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09/02261

Figure 4 Plan of the proposed development

Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	David Parker
Previous/Future work	House extension
Current Land Use	Demolition site
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 769 408
Start/end dates of field work	17/06/2010
Archive Recipient	TBA
Study Area *	c. 2.5 ha.

Appendix 2

Design Specification for archaeological work

*Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire
(SK 769 408)*

Planning Application: 09/02661/FUL

Planning Authority: Rushcliffe Borough Council

For: Carling Construction Contracting Ltd

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5 Planning and the Historic Environment), this specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority (Condition 5), of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for development at Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire (SK 769 408).

1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 10 one bedroom apartments with new and revised access.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions (Condition 8) required by Rushcliffe Borough Council following recommendations from Nottinghamshire County Council, Environment as advisors to the planning authority.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance within the settlement core of Orston.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors:

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 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 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 Framework Housing Association, Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County 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 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and 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 watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, the Historic Environment 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 Brown (2008) will be presented to Nottinghamshire County Council SMR and an appropriate registered 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. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

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

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

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03.06.2010

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

***Lombard Street, Orston, Nottinghamshire
(SK 769 408)***

Planning Application: 09/02661/FUL

Planning Authority: Rushcliffe Borough Council

For: Carling Construction Contracting Ltd

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.75 - 1.5m. 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 contractors on-site Health and Safety policy, the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety manual 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 watching brief

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Contaminants

A risk assessment has been prepared by ENSR (2001a and b) including a soil gas survey. Some hydro-carbon and heavy metal impacted soil was detected with concentrations of arsenic and cyanide. Contaminated soil will be removed from the site.

Precautions. No contact will be made with the areas of contaminated soils. Protective clothing will be worn at all times.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 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
03.06.2010

