AR2028 Practical Archaeology

Academic Year: 2009-2010

Semester: 2

Time and location: Thursday, 11:00-13:00, Ceramics Teaching Laboratory, Room 114

First meeting: Thursday, 28th January 2010

Module coordinator: Dr Ian K. Whitbread

e-mail: lw3@le.ac.uk

Room: 115

Office hours: Mondays 14:00-16:00

Your individual appointments (e.g. tutorials, seminars): ..........................................................

..........................................................

document prepared by: Ian Whitbread, 26th January 2010
AR2028 Practical Archaeology

Weighting: 20 credits
Coordinator: Dr Ian Whitbread
Other tutors: Dierdre O’Sullivan, Sarah Tarlow, Debbie Miles-Williams

Module outline: This module introduces basic field recording methods to provide students with skills for recording and interpreting structures in the field. Students will be instructed in making records of archaeological remains in the field. This focuses on drawing plans and elevations based on tape measure baselines and offsets, and written records. Working in teams, students will study and record parts of the Welford Road Municipal Cemetery. Using their fieldwork as a foundation, they will critically analyse the graveyard with respect to social developments in Leicester.

Aims: To develop skills in:
- Base-line and offset planning
- Elevation drawing and recording
- Descriptive recording in the field
- Using field records and relevant literature to study mortuary practices
- Teamwork

Intended learning outcomes: Students will demonstrate ability to: survey in both horizontal and vertical planes, calculate appropriate numerical data, record structures in the field, and complete a team-based project.

Method(s) of teaching: Lectures, practicals, fieldwork

Method of assessment: Ground plan exercise (25%)
Welford Road Municipal Cemetery workbook (75%)
## Teaching schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January</td>
<td>Introduction to ground plans and elevations (IW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Ground plan exercise – Victoria Park (IW, DMO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Drawing up ground plans and database (IW, DMW, DMO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 17</td>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Recording graveyards and cemetery database (DMO, IW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 18</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Welford Road and St Nicholas Church cemeteries (IW, ST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 19</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td><strong>[Reading week]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 20</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Ground plans - computer illustration (DMW, IW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 21</td>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Welford Road Cemetery project (IW, DMO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 22</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Welford Road Cemetery project (IW, DMO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 23</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Welford Road Cemetery project &amp; review session (IW, DMO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Victoria Park Playground, St Nicholas Church and Welford Road Municipal Cemetery

Please always show due respect to the church, grounds and any visitors while you are working in these locations. Please keep to the paths whenever possible in Welford Road Cemetery.

Please ensure that you have appropriate clothing and footwear for the prevailing weather conditions when you are visiting or working at these locations.
Assignments and deadlines

ASSIGNMENT 1 — Ground plan exercise and test (25%)

Group-based assignment

Students will be divided into teams. Each team will submit a neatly prepared, final ground plan of an assigned area of Victoria Park, together with field sketches and field notes. The neatly finished plan will be drawn to scale in pencil with appropriate titles, labels, legend, north arrow and scale. The plan should include physical features to aid identification of the area surveyed, such as paths, trees and fences. Submit one set of work (2 copies) for the group using one cover sheet. Student numbers of all group members, and the group number, must be written clearly on the cover sheet. The mark for the work will apply to all group members.

Ground plan group exercise submission deadline: Monday 22nd February 2010

ASSIGNMENT 2 — Welford Road Municipal Cemetery workbook (75%)

This assignment is divided into two parts: individual (50%) and group-based (25%).

Individual assignment (50%) submission date: Monday 29th March 2010

Alongside the paper submission you are also required to submit an electronic copy of your essay via the Turnitin facility in the Assignments page of the AR2028 Practical Archaeology Blackboard site – please make sure that you have read the Turnitin – Personal Data and Intellectual Property section of your Undergraduate Handbook.

NOTE: at the Blackboard Login page click the ‘How do I?’ tab (top right corner), go to the Information for Students list and click ‘How to Submit Assignments to Turnitin’. Please read these instructions.

The electronic copy is to be submitted by the same deadline as the paper copy (Monday 29th March). Please note that this electronic submission is COMPULSORY. Late submission of either copy will result in the appropriate lateness penalties being applied to the final mark. Students failing to submit both paper and electronic copies by the designated deadline will be deemed to have FAILED the assessment (i.e. a mark of zero will be recorded).

Burial practices in Leicester: An analysis of St Nicholas Church graveyard and Welford Road Municipal Cemetery: Using your field records, the graveyard survey database from the Welford Road Municipal Cemetery (see below) and your observations on St Nicholas Church cemetery, critically assess the social significance of these two burial contexts. Take into account the burial customs represented by the grave monuments and the wider social contexts of these cemeteries in Leicester. Background reading and an
appropriate bibliography must support this analysis. How has your understanding of burial practices in Leicester been advanced through your fieldwork and background reading?

**Maximum Length is 2,500 words**

**Group-based assignment (25%) submission date: Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} May 2010**

Each group will submit:

- A neatly prepared, final ground plan of an area of Welford Road Municipal Cemetery containing at least six grave monuments, together with field sketches, field notes and pencil-drawn plan. The neatly finished plan will be drawn using computer illustration software with appropriate titles, labels, legend, north arrow and scale. The plan should include physical features to identify the specific location of your graves area within the cemetery, such as paths, trees and fences.
- A completed Grave Record Form for each of the planned grave monuments.
- A measured elevation drawing for one of the grave monuments, showing the outline of the monument and marking the areas where symbols and lettering are located.

*Submit one set of work (2 copies) for the group using one cover sheet. Student numbers of all group members, and the group number, must be written clearly on the cover sheet. The mark for the work will apply to all group members.*
Reading list

General


Surveying

Churches and Graves


St Nicholas Church St. Nicholas Church – Leicester, UK: Leicester’s oldest place of worship,  


Tarlow, S. 1998. Romancing the stones: the gravestone boom of the later eighteenth  
century. In M. Cox (ed) Grave concerns, life and death in post-medieval England 1700-  

Tarlow, S. 1999 Bereavement and commemoration: an archaeology of mortality  Oxford:  
Blackwells  

Tarlow, S. 1999 Wormie clay and blessed sleep: death and disgust in later historical  
Britain. In S. Tarlow and S. West (eds) The familiar past? Archaeologies of later  

European Journal of Archaeology  

Wade-Matthews, M. (1994) The Monuments of Saint Nicholas Church and All Saints Church,  
Leicester. Wymeswold: Heart of Albion Press.  

Cemetery – Leicester, with brief biographies of some of the notable citizens of Victorian Leicester  
who are therein interred, 2nd ed. Loughborough: Heart of Albion Press.