



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological
'Strip, Map and Sample Excavation'
at 4 Burden Lane
Harby, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 7471 3111 (centre)

Tim Higgins



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**An Archaeological
'Strip, Map and Sample Excavation'
at**

**4 Burden Lane,
Harby, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 7471 3111

Tim Higgins

For: Michael Blaze

Approved by:

Signed:



Name: **R. J. Buckley**

Date: 10.11.2010..

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CONTENTS

1. Summary	1
2. Introduction.....	1
3. Site description, topography and geology.....	1
4. Archaeological and Historical background.....	2
5. Aims and method.....	2
6. Results.....	3
7. Conclusion.....	5
8. Acknowledgements and publication.....	5
9. Archive.....	5
10. Bibliography	6
Appendix 1 Oasis Summary	7
Appendix 2 Design Specification	8

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Harby.....	2
Figure 2: Location of the Development.....	3
Figure 3: Trial Trench 1	4

An Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent to No. 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire

(NGR: SK 7471 3111)

Tim Higgins

1. Summary

An archaeological 'strip, map and sample' excavation during groundworks on land adjacent to 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr Michael Blaze. The initial groundworks comprised removal of overburden and the excavation of new foundations for a new residential building. Attendance at the site was undertaken on the 4 October 2010.

The investigation revealed no archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts.

The archive will be deposited with Archaeology, Environment and Heritage Services (Leicestershire County Council Museums), subject to their confirmation. Accession No. X.A179.2010

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological 'strip, map and sample excavation' during groundworks on land adjacent to 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 7471 3111) in connection with the construction of a new dwelling. The work was undertaken to satisfy a condition on the planning consent (P.A. 08/00576/FUL) following recommendations by the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority.

The ground-works involved ground clearance, reduction of the ground levels and the excavation of foundations.

The investigation was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic Environment). All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and followed the design specification approved by LCC (Appendix 2).

3. Site description, topography and geology

The site is located in the village of Harby, in Leicestershire (Fig. 1). The site lies at NGR SK 7471 3111 on the south side of the village off Burden Lane at a height of c.54m OD (Figure 1). The underlying geology comprises Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142).



Figure 1: Site location Harby

Reproduced from Landranger[®] 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey[®] on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

4. Archaeological and Historical background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is in the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, on a street frontage, in an area that does not appear to have been significantly disturbed. As well as remains from this period, numerous earlier remains (Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon) are recorded in the vicinity. These include Iron Age pottery (MLE10199), a large amount of Roman finds, indicating an occupation site (HER Ref. No. MLE3550), Roman finds and features recorded during archaeological fieldwork in 2004 (MLE10201) and various Anglo-Saxon finds (MLE6195).

5. Aims and methods.

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, controlled stripping and investigation the aim of the investigation was:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.

4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work followed the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification (appendix 1) and adherence to the University's Health and Safety policy.

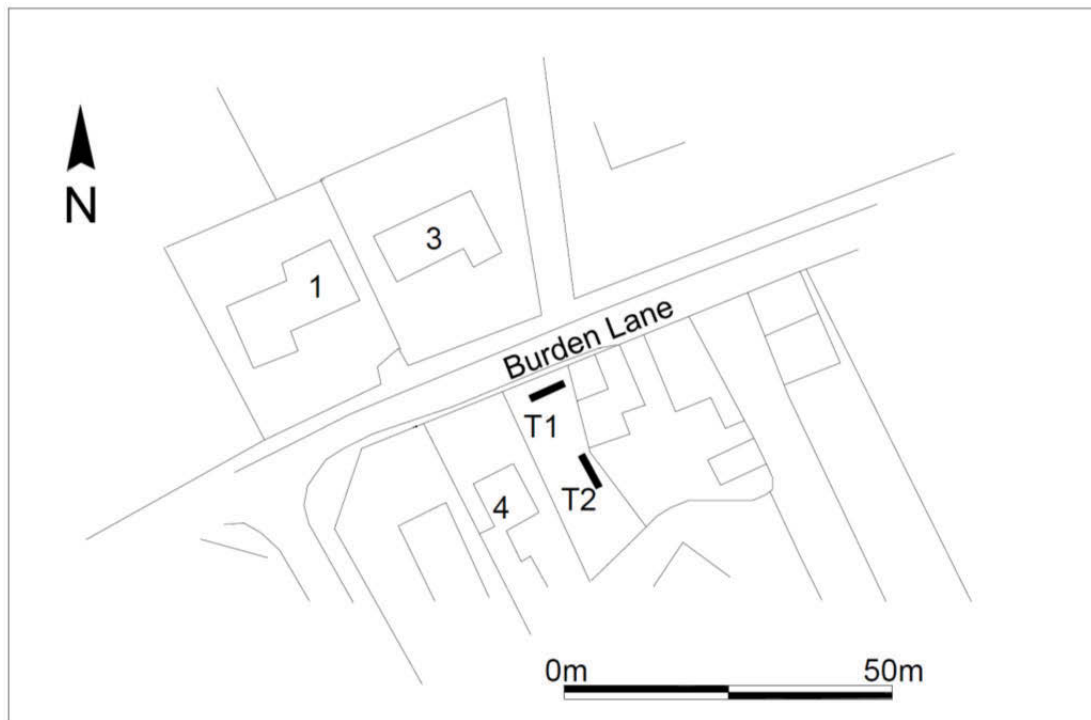


Figure 2: Location of the development area and trial trenches

6. Results

The initial groundwork involved the clearance of topsoil and an area strip for the new dwelling down to natural subsoil (Figure 2) on 4th October 2010. The excavations were located in the eastern side of the development area and comprised an area strip for the new dwelling measuring 18m x 10m.

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other ground works by an archaeologist during the works specified above.

Initially, two small trial trenches were opened within the footprint of the proposed plot to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains. The machine used for the ground works was a 7 tonne 360° degree excavator fitted with a 0.60 wide smooth-bladed bucket. A visual inspection was conducted across the two trial trenches.

The natural substratum reached within the two trial trenches consisted of yellowish-grey clay found at a depth of about 0.30m below the present ground surface. No significant archaeological remains were identified in either of the initial trial trenches.

This area appeared to have been previously levelled, with a layer 0.30m deep comprising dark greyish-brown clay mixed with occasional modern building materials

apparently deposited to raise the ground levels. The re-deposited layer and levelling probably occurred during the construction of the dwelling at No. 4 Burden Lane, which may have removed evidence of any potential early archaeological deposits.



Figure 3 Trial Trench 1

All of the stripped areas, and spoil heaps were walked over and visually inspected. No archaeological deposits or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the inspection of the site.

Trial Trench 1	West to East
Length	4.50m
Width	1.00m
Depth	1.00m
Depth Top soil	0.30m

Trial Trench 2	North to South
Length	5.50m
Width	1.30m
Depth	1.00m
Depth Top soil	0.40m

7. Conclusion.

Despite its location within the historic village core of Harby, nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the course of the archaeological work. Monitoring of the groundworks revealed that the natural horizons appeared to have been levelled at some point in the past. The topsoil and subsoil had been removed and replaced with modern mixed layer used to raise the ground levels and used as a garden soil.

8. Acknowledgements and publication

I would like to thank the clients for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins both of ULAS.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. 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. Archive

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

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report, 1 watching brief recording forms, copies of site location plans and synthesised plans, 1 copy brief for archaeological work, 1 photo index form, colour digital photo contact sheet, and 1 CD containing 5 digital photos, B+W photos contact sheet and negatives.

Subject to confirmation it will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A179.2010.

All modern artefacts found during the watching brief were examined and then discarded.

10. Bibliography

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

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28.10.2010

Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire (SK 7471 3111).
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR : SK 7471 3111
Start/end dates of field work	4/10/10
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area *	Approx 180m sq

Appendix 2 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work: Strip, Plan & sample

Job title: 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK74713111

Agent Tony Player

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application No. 08/00576/FUL

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) this specification provides a written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work during ground works associated with residential development, as required by the Planning Authority. Details of the requirements are expressed in the LCC *Brief For Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan & Sample Excavation)*, hereinafter 'The Brief'.

1.2 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 Planning permission has been granted for the proposed development with a condition for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to mitigate any damage to buried remains which may occur from the proposals. This is to comprise the control and supervision of groundworks by an archaeologist, with provision for excavation and recording of significant archaeological remains which may be affected ('Strip, plan and sample').

2.2 Archaeological Background (taken from the Brief)

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is in the medieval and postmedieval historic settlement core of the village, on a street frontage, in an area that does not appear to have been significantly disturbed. As well as remains from this period, numerous earlier remains (Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon) are recorded in the vicinity. These include Iron Age pottery (MLE10199), a large amount of Roman finds, indicating an occupation site (HER Ref. No. MLE3550), Roman finds and features recorded during archaeological fieldwork in 2004 (MLE10201) and various Anglo-Saxon finds (MLE6195).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open a series of small trial trenches on the footprint of each proposed plot to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in the initial trial trenches, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, each plot will be stripped down to the top of the archaeology, followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary. This work may not necessarily follow on immediately from the initial trial trench, instead being done at a later date.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trench/test pit (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trench, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

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

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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 and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 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 and

4.11 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

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 and Dissemination of Results

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.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the Senior Planning Archaeologist prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 No date has been set as yet for the commencement of fieldwork.

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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26 July 2010

APPENDIX 2

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: 4 Burden Lane, Harby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK74713111

Agent Tony Player

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application No. 08/00576/FUL

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample excavate). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full. 1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health

and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following. 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

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear 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. 2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.* Design specification for archaeological work 09/157

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.

2.6 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

26.07.2010

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