



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Watching Brief at
18 Chapel Lane,
Nether Broughton,
Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 6944 2576

Andrew Hyam



ULAS Report No. 2011-066
©2011

An Archaeological watching Brief at

18 Chapel Lane,

Nether Broughton, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 6944 2576

Andrew Hyam

For: Mr Ian Hardwick

Checked by:

Signed:  .Date: ...09.05.2011

Name: ..Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2011-066

©2011

Accession Number XA.50.2011

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Background	1
Objectives	5
Methodology	5
Results	6
Discussion	9
Archive	9
Publication	9
Acknowledgements	9
Bibliography	9
Appendix I Digital photographs	10
Appendix II OASIS Information	10

FIGURES

Figure 1 Nether Broughton Location	2
Figure 2 Nether Broughton village detail	3
Figure 3 Development area prior to work	3
Figure 4 18 Chapel Lane showing that it has had its concrete ship lap skin removed. .	4
Figure 5 Proposed development	4
Figure 6 Site before foundation trench excavation looking south. The yellow paint line indicates trench location. The painted white wall is the rear of the adjacent property's toilet block.	6
Figure 7 Foundation trenches on north-west side of house	7
Figure 8 Foundation trenches on north-east side of house looking east	8
Figure 9 Final foundation trenches looking south-west	8

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. NGR: SK 6944 2576

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The work took place on the 21st of March 2011 in advance of the construction of an extension to the side and rear of a former council house which is being extensively refurbished to create two new semi-detached dwellings. The development site lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village and is close to the site of a now demolished three bay timber framed building. The foundations for the proposed extension were excavated and the internal footprint of the new part of the building was reduced to reveal an undisturbed natural substratum of pale yellow brown sandy-clay. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A.50.2011

Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010) this document forms the report of an archaeological watching brief at 18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire, SK 6944 2576. It was proposed that an extension was to be added to the side and rear of an existing semi-detached council house to create two new semi-detached houses (10/00792/FUL). When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, recommended the requirement for a programme of archaeological monitoring work during soil stripping and groundworks due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned by the developer Mr I Hardwick.

Background

The village of Nether Broughton lies approximately 8km to the north-west of the market town of Melton Mowbray and 25km to the north-east of Leicester (Fig. 1). The village lies at the base of a slope heading north-west up to the neighbouring village of Upper Broughton 1km away. The development is centred on SK 6944 2576 in Melton District at a height of *c.* 75m OD and slopes by approximately 1m up towards the north-west corner of the site. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of glacial drift (boulder clay) with sand and gravels to the south.



Figure 1 Nether Broughton Location

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 100029495

Number 18 Chapel Lane is one of a small development of council houses in the centre of the village (Figs 2 and 3). Prior to redevelopment the house was a typical semi-detached Airey House (Fig. 4). Airey Houses were built in large numbers across the country in response to the severe housing shortage in the immediate post-Second World War period. They were designed by Sir Edward Airey under the Ministry of Works Emergency Factory Made Housing Programme. Offsite house production employed modular construction line techniques to produce metal reinforced concrete frames with ship lap concrete panels forming the outer skin. Although fast and cheap to build the houses are now beginning to show their age and many are being demolished or refurbished. As part of the redevelopment the entire concrete ship lap skin is to be removed and replaced with modern materials. At the same time the building will be extended to the north and east to create two dwellings (Fig. 5).

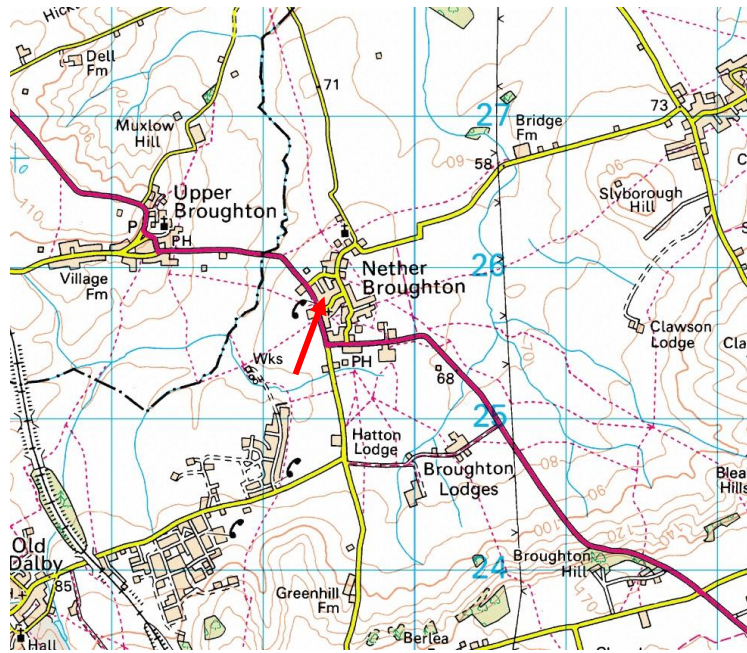


Figure 2 Nether Broughton village detail
Site location arrowed

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 100029495



Figure 3 Development area prior to work
Plan (NTS) supplied by developer.



Figure 4 18 Chapel Lane showing that it has had its concrete ship lap skin removed. Looking north-west

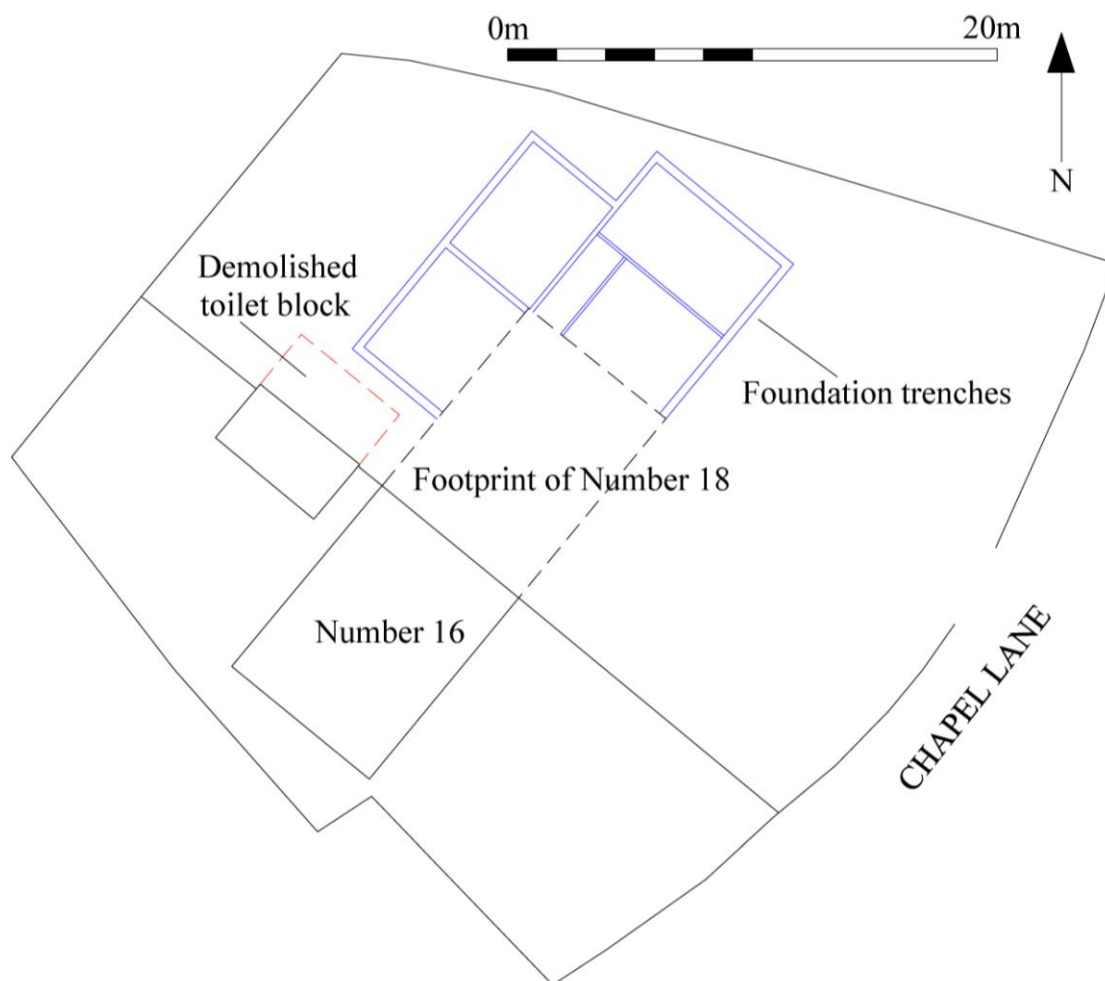


Figure 5 Proposed development

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that the application site lay within an area of archaeological interest as it is situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Nether Broughton (HER ref. MLE9700). The villages of Leicestershire, in common with the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. Buried archaeological evidence spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past could therefore be expected within the development area. The application area is also opposite the site of a three-bay timber-framed building that was demolished in 1973 but was originally of cross-passage plan (MLE3441). Consequently, there was a possibility that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1885 shows the site of the entire council development to be open land in the south-east corner of a rectangular field on the west side of the village. Subsequent editions show the empty site up until the 1952 edition when the Airey Houses appear.

The development proposals involved the excavation of foundation trenches to the rear and side of the existing house footprint. Prior to the development the garden surrounding the house consisted mostly of lawn with a single narrow path leading from the road to the front door.

Objectives

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation, the objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

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.

Methodology

A tracked mini-digger with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket was used to excavate the foundations under continuous archaeological supervision. Should significant archaeological remains be identified during the watching brief a programme of excavation and recording would be necessary, using additional personnel if required.

All groundworks and deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. The recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS Design Specification for Archaeological Work for *18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire*. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

Prior to the watching brief the entire concrete skin of the house had been removed in preparation for the refurbishment of this portion of the building. Most of the garden surrounding the house had already had its turf and some subsoil removed in order to create a flat working surface around the house. This had resulted in a somewhat disturbed ground level (Fig. 6). The former outside toilet, washhouse block and coal store which joins Number 16's block had already been demolished in preparation for the foundations of the new construction. A sewer or large drain pipe ran down the slope of the garden from the rear fence towards the location of the former toilet.



Figure 6 Site before foundation trench excavation looking south. The yellow paint line indicates trench location. The painted white wall is the rear of the adjacent property's toilet block.

Up to 0.3m of mid-grey brown clay-silt topsoil survived towards the north-western corner of the site. Around the house and proposed trenches the disturbed subsoil was seen to consist of a mid-yellow brown silty-clay but with a range of modern building debris pressed into the surface. In places a pale yellow brown sandy-clay natural substratum could be seen showing through the subsoil.

Foundation trenches measuring 0.6m in width and 0.9m in depth were excavated along the proposed internal and external wall lines (Figs. 7, 8 and 9). The trenches revealed the natural substratum to consist of pale yellow brown sandy-clay with patches of mid-brown sand. Towards the base of excavation the natural began to

change to a mottled bluish grey clay with yellow brown sandy-clay. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the development area.



Figure 7 Foundation trenches on north-west side of house
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 8 Foundation trenches on north-east side of house looking east



Figure 9 Final foundation trenches looking south-west

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological features or deposits none were observed during the course of this watching brief. As mentioned the Ordnance Survey maps suggest that there has been no development on this site since the late 19th century which would perhaps raise the potential for earlier undisturbed features. This however appears not to be the case.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro-forma watching brief form,

2 photo record sheets, 1 for colour digital and one for 35mm black and white,

1 contact sheet of 4 35mm black and white photographs,

35mm black and white negatives,

1 contact sheet of 21 digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by A. Hyam. The project was managed by Dr P. Clay. Thanks are also due to the client Mr Ian Hardwick.

Bibliography

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

Design Specification for Archaeological Work. *18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire*. ULAS

IfA, 2006, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Appendix I Digital photographs



XA50 2011 (1).jpg



XA50 2011 (2).jpg



XA50 2011 (3).jpg



XA50 2011 (4).jpg



XA50 2011 (5).jpg



XA50 2011 (6).jpg



XA50 2011 (7).jpg



XA50 2011 (8).jpg



XA50 2011 (9).jpg



XA50 2011 (10).jpg



XA50 2011 (11).jpg



XA50 2011 (12).jpg



XA50 2011 (13).jpg



XA50 2011 (14).jpg



XA50 2011 (15).jpg



XA50 2011 (16).jpg



XA50 2011 (17).jpg



XA50 2011 (18).jpg



XA50 2011 (19).jpg



XA50 2011 (20).jpg



XA50 2011 (21).jpg

Appendix II OASIS Information

Project Name	18 Chapel Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Domestic
Development Type	Domestic dwelling
Reason for Investigation	Redevelopment
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 6944 2576
Start/end dates of field work	21.3.2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	2500m ²

ULAS 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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9