



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Watching
Brief During Groundworks At
15, Church Lane, Gaddesby,
Leicestershire
(SK6895 1299)

Jennifer Browning



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**An Archaeological Watching
Brief during Groundworks at
15, Church Lane, Gaddesby,
Leicestershire
(SK 6895 1299)**

Jennifer Browning

for

Mr. Campbell

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Location and Geology.....	1
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	3
Archaeological Objectives.....	3
Methodology.....	3
Results.....	4
Conclusion.....	6
Acknowledgements.....	6
References.....	6
Archive.....	6

Figure 1: Site Location.....	2
Figure 2: Site plan (supplied by client, NTS).....	2
Figure 3: Plan of development, indicating the location of the new foundation trenches, which are shaded more lightly (plan supplied by client) (NTS).....	4
Figure 4: Section through overburden and subsoil for rear extension trench 1. Photographic scale 0.5m.....	5
Figure 5: Section through overburden and subsoil for front extension trench 4. Photographic scale 0.5m.....	5

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 15 Church Lane, Gaddesby, Leicestershire (SK 6895 1299) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in November 2011. The site was located adjacent to the church and war memorial in the medieval and post-medieval core of the village. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified during the course of the work. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A166.2011 and a digital copy lodged with OASIS.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Mr. Campbell to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works at 15 Church Lane, Gaddesby, Leicestershire (SK 6895 1299).

This archaeological work is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010). The watching brief was required as a condition of the planning consent for extensions to the front and rear of the existing dwelling (Planning Application No. P/11/00362/FUL), issued by Melton Borough Council.

The site lies within a designated conservation area at the top of Church Lane immediately adjacent to the village War Memorial and Grade I listed Church of St Luke. The site is also located within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village and it was considered that buried archaeological remains might therefore be affected by the development.

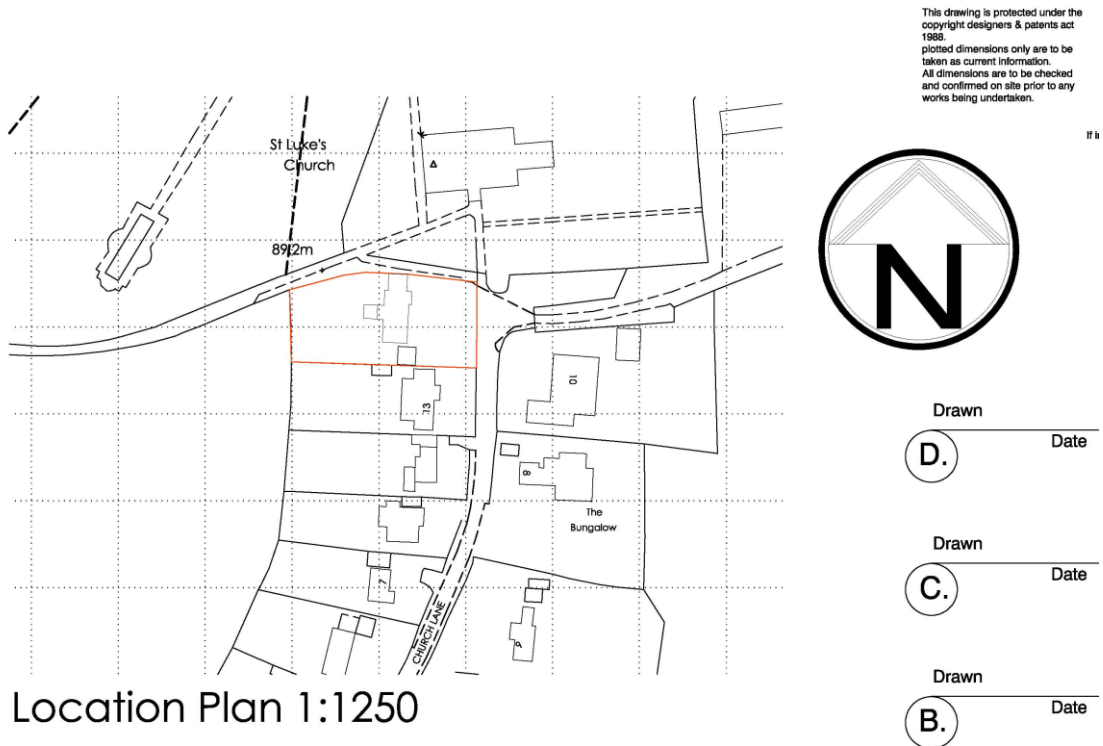
Location and Geology

Gaddesby lies in the Melton Borough of Leicestershire, c.13km to the north east of Leicester (Figure 1) The site is located on the south-eastern side of the village, at the north end of Church Lane (a cul-de-sac) and directly south of the church (Figure 2). The site is at an approximate height of 90m O.D. and the natural substratum is boulder clay. The site is bordered on the north side by a footpath running next to the graveyard.



Figure 1: Site Location

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Location Plan 1:1250

Figure 2: Site plan (supplied by client, NTS)

Historical and Archaeological Background

The development site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic settlement core of the medieval and post-medieval village of Gaddesby (HER ref: MLE 3783). The name Gaddesby has Scandinavian origins (Bourne 2003, 46). St. Luke's Church dates from the 13th century but has earlier features incorporated within its present structure, such as a displaced Norman chevron fragment (Pevsner 2003, 156). Until 1874 the church was a chapel of the mother church of Rothley (Herbert, 247). Gaddesby Hall, to the north, is built on the site of a much earlier building known as Paske Hall, which first occurred in a charter of 1398 (Herbert and Farnham 1924, 263). Fieldwalking around the village (MLE 6023 and 16330) has indicated the possibility of Roman settlement and activity in the vicinity. A mound or tumulus of uncertain date was also identified in a field on the far side of Park Hill.

A search of ULAS and OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) records indicated that with the exception of a small number of watching briefs (eg. Smith 2002; Henderson 2007), little recent archaeological work has been carried out at Gaddesby.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the watching brief were to:

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

Methodology

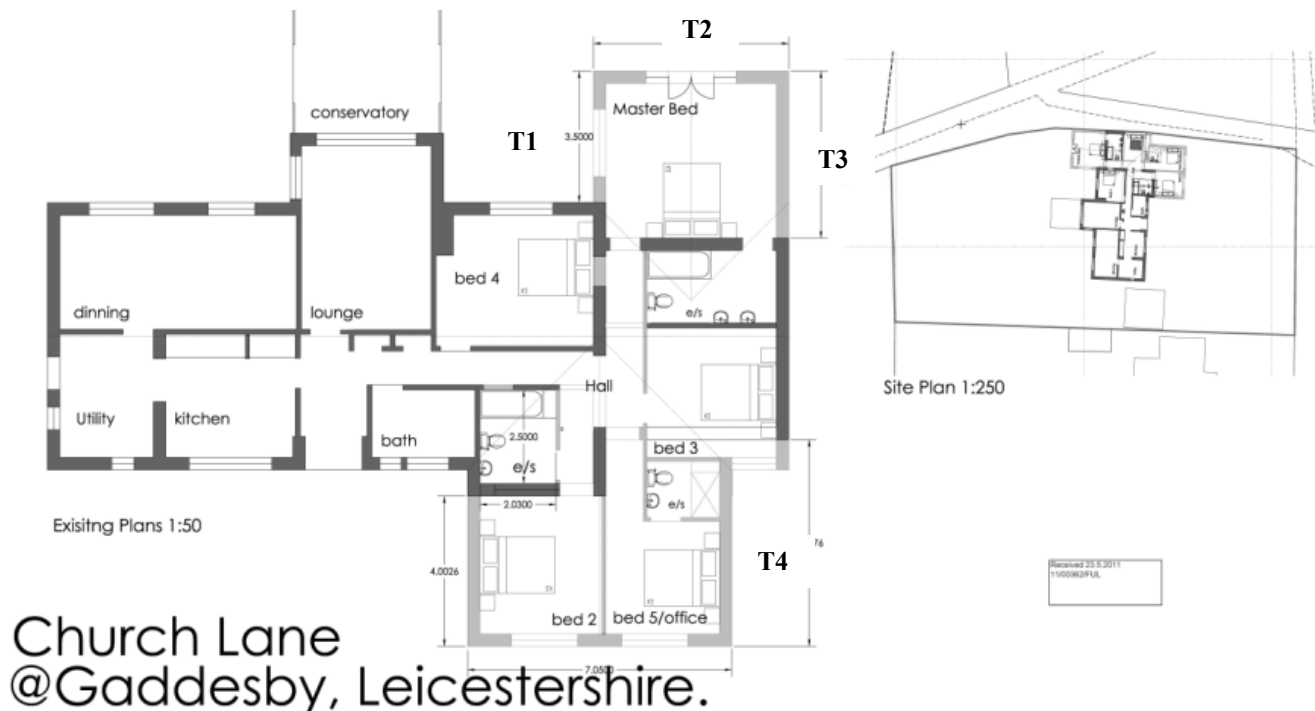
All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008). *A Design Specification for Archaeological Work* was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches by a small tracked excavator for extensions to the front and rear of the property.

Results

The site was visited on 1st November 2011 when the programme of work consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches for the new extensions (figure 3). The work began with the trenches to the rear of the property, adjacent to the war memorial. Three trenches were excavated in an area that had previously been covered with a patio. The trenches were 0.75m wide and c.0.95m deep. They were excavated through a thin layer of hardcore and sand into dark brown subsoil containing roots, stone and brick rubble, which is believed to be a buried topsoil. Below this layer was grey brown clay with orange flecks, occasional flecks of charcoal/coal and chalky fragments. There was some evidence for previous disturbance, including a patch of charcoal and ash, seen in Trench 1, c.0.8m below the ground surface. Concrete blocks, possibly the remains of an old retaining wall, associated with brick and tile rubble, were encountered at the junction of trench 1 and trench 2 and removed by machine. At the very base of the trenches, a layer of blue and yellow clay containing frequent chalky stones was presumed to be the undisturbed natural subsoil. The strata in the top 0.3m in each trench varied slightly, for example a layer of re-deposited clay was noted at the surface of trench 3.

At the front of the existing dwelling, a trench orientated east-west was watched. This was the northern-most trench, located nearest the church, and was therefore considered to have the highest archaeological potential. The top 0.4m consisted of topsoil above orange brown sand over a buried topsoil. An old drainage pipe was observed and can be seen on the left side of figure 5. The natural subsoil consisted of yellow and grey clay with occasional sandstone fragments and more frequent chalk flecks and fragments. No evidence indicating the presence of archaeological deposits was observed and therefore it was not considered necessary to watch the remaining trenches.



Church Lane
@Gaddesby, Leicestershire.
Figure 3: Plan of development, indicating the location of the new foundation trenches,
which are shaded more lightly (plan supplied by client) (NTS)



Figure 4: Section through overburden and subsoil for rear extension trench 1.
Photographic scale 0.5m



Figure 5: Section through overburden and subsoil for front extension trench 4.
Photographic scale 0.5m

Conclusion

Despite the location of the site in an area of archaeological potential, no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the work.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs. Campbell and the contractors on site for their help and co-operation during the work. Richard Buckley managed the project.

References

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www.gaddesby.org.uk/village_history.htm

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Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society 1923-4 Vol. XIII, Part 2,
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Pevsner, N. 2003 *The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland* London: Yale University Press

Smith, S. A., 2002 *An Archaeological Watching Brief during alterations to the north aisle of St. Luke's Church, Gaddesby, Leicestershire (SK 690 130)* ULAS Report 2002-084

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Services with the accession number X.A166 2011 and consists of the following:

Digital photographs

Black and white contact prints and negatives

Photo Index

Site notes

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