



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Land west of 42 King Street,
Scalford,
Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 7627 2437**

Andrew Hyam



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Land to the West of 42 King Street,
Scalford, Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 7627 2437

Andrew Hyam

For: Mr T Sibson

Approved by:

Signed: ...  **Date:** 08.05.2011

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 11th of April 2011 during the removal of overburden and ground preparation work in advance of the construction of a single domestic dwelling. The development area was located in the north-west corner of the village on land used for a number of individual garages.

After demolition of the garages and removal of scrub the ground was reduced by approximately 0.4m to reveal an undisturbed natural substrate with the exception of a modern sewer pipe and electrical cable running from north to south along the eastern side of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

The report and archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A.46.2011

Introduction

In accordance with PPS 5: planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010) this report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 11th of April 2011 on land west of 42 King Street, Scalford, Leicestershire, NGR 7627 2437. Monitoring took place during site reduction and ground preparation in advance of the construction of a single detached house under planning application number 10/00940/FUL. The archaeological work was commissioned by the developer Mr T Sibson.

The village of Scalford lies approximately 3.5km due north of Melton Mowbray in Scalford parish (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located to the north of King Street on a sharp bend just before the road heads westwards out of the village (Fig. 2). It consists of an area of *c.* 2500 sq m, centred on SK 7627 2437 in Melton District at a height of *c.* 100metres. The site forms a roughly rectangular shape with the bottom left corner cut off by the road. The site slopes down from north to south following the slope of King Street as it passes through the village. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay and sand & gravels to the south.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest as it is situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Scalford (HER ref. MLE9169). Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains

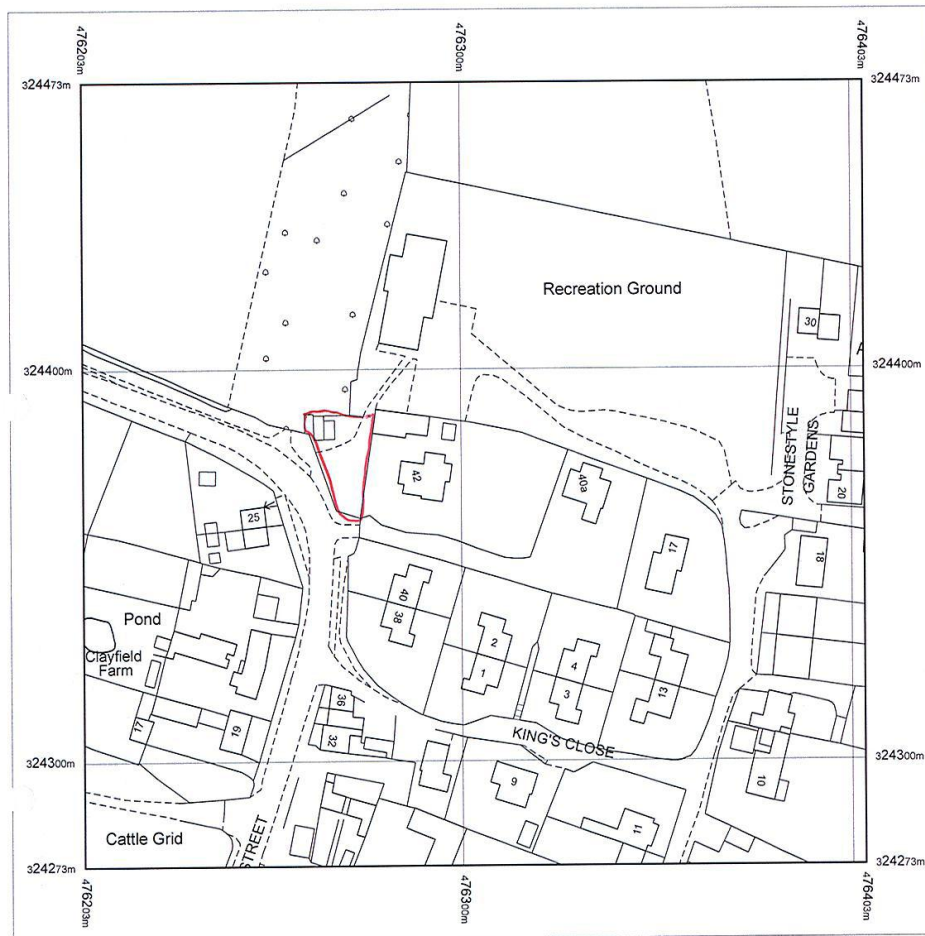
would be affected by the development. Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, requested an archaeological watching brief as mitigation against the likely impact of the development.



Figure 1. Salford village location

Site marked with arrow.

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Produced 28.09.2010 from the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date. © Crown Copyright 2010.

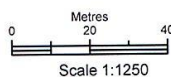
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Figure 2. Site location

Figure supplied by developer

Background

Cartographic evidence indicates that the site has remained relatively undeveloped since the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884. This map shows the site as a small pocket of land between a farm track to the west and a footpath running along its eastern boundary from the south-east corner to the north-east corner. There is no change on the 1904 or the 1930 maps and it is only on the next edition published in 1967 that three single garages are shown in the northern half of the site. The footpath also appears to have been removed on the 1967 edition. The OS map shown in Figure

2, dated 28.09.2010, only shows two garages and the footpath appears to have been moved to run from the west side of the site to the north-west corner.

At the time of the watching brief the footpath was unmarked but a gateway in the north-west corner marked the point where it leaves the site and where access can be gained to the modern village hall built to the north of the site. To the west of the development site the ground drops away into a shallow hollow way leading into the adjacent field. This marks the site of the former farm track shown in the 1884 OS map. Before the start of the watching brief the remaining garages had been demolished leaving a pair of 2.4m wide by 4.9m long brick and concrete bases set 1m apart in the north-west corner. There was also evidence of a great deal of disturbance to the east of these where a third structure once stood. To the south of the garages the ground had been covered in a layer of small stones and mill-waste. The edges of the site were covered in thick scrub and brambles.

Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or features.

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

The watching brief entailed the supervision of the topsoil and overburden stripping during the site reduction. The work was carried out using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a ditching bucket.

All deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and digital colour photographs. The work was recorded on standard pro-forma watching brief recording sheets. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

As mentioned earlier the garages had been demolished and removed from site prior to the commencement of the watching brief (Figs. 3 and 4). Most of the undergrowth around the site had also been removed and worked had begun in reducing the site along the eastern boundary. Unfortunately a large sewer pipe and electricity cable was discovered running across the site from the south-east corner to the north-east corner. These services appear to have been laid when the village hall, to the north of the site, were built. The location of the services impinged on the proposed eastern foundation line of the new house causing a temporary halt to the watching brief. Along the line of the services the dark yellow brown sandy clay substrate could be seen. Elsewhere across the site the dark brown clayish silt sand topsoil, where it had survived, had

been removed to reveal a dark yellow brown clay sand subsoil. The location of the garage bases and the other third building in the northern half of the site indicated that this area had been heavily disturbed. At this point the development work was temporarily suspended in order to reconsider the implications of the location of the services and the foundation trenches.



Figure 3. Site seen from King Street.

Looking north

Later in the day the watching brief was restarted and the site reduction recommenced. Including the earlier general rubbish reduction approximately 400mm of topsoil, subsoil and some natural substrata were removed. All of the subsoil in the south half of the site was removed to reveal an undisturbed natural substrate except where the sewer and electric cable had cut through (Fig. 5). As was indicated earlier on in the day the area around the garages had cut into the natural resulting in a potential loss or disturbance of any archaeological deposits or remains which may have been present.



Figure 4. Site after removal of vegetation and before level reduction
Location of garage base can be seen in foreground on left of picture. Looking SE



Figure 5. After site reduction. The concrete garage bases remain to be removed in the north end of the site. The raised cover of the sewer pipe can be seen on the right of the picture. Looking north

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains on the site none were observed during the watching brief. The earlier construction of the garages followed by the excavation for the services supplying the nearby village hall has effectively disturbed much of the site.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro forma watching brief sheet,

1 photographic record sheet listing 35mm black and white and digital photographs,

1 contact sheet of digital photographs,

1 cd of the digital photographs,

3 35mm black and white photographs as contact prints and negatives.

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.

Bibliography

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

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

RCHME 1996. *Recording Historic Buildings; A Descriptive Specification Third Edition*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

ULAS 2011 *Design Specification for archaeological work: Watching Brief. Land west of 42 King Street, Scalford.*

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07.05.2011

Appendix 1. Digital photographs



XA46 2011 (1).jpg



XA46 2011 (2).jpg



XA46 2011 (3).jpg



XA46 2011 (4).jpg



XA46 2011 (5).jpg



XA46 2011 (6).jpg



XA46 2011 (7).jpg



XA46 2011 (8).jpg

Appendix 2. OASIS Information

OASIS Information	XA46. 2011
Project Name	Land west of 42 King Street, Scalford, Leicestershire.
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Private garages
Development Type	Domestic dwelling
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 7627 2437
Start/end dates of field work	11.04.2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	Approx 2500m ²

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