



# University of Leicester

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## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 55 High Street,  
Welford,  
Northamptonshire  
(SP 64475 80720)**

**Gerwyn Richards**



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at 55 High Street, Welford  
Northamptonshire.  
(NGR SP 64475 80720)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

**Planning Application:** DA/2010/0934

**For:** Mr S. Perkins.

Checked by



**Signed:**

**Date:** 14.09.2011

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at 55 High Street, Welford,  
Northamptonshire (SP 64475 80720)**

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## **An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at 55 High Street, Welford, Northamptonshire (SP 64475 80720)**

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### **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Mr S. Perkins to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the re-development at 55 High Street, Welford, Northamptonshire.*

*The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village and adjacent to sites of known archaeological significance. No evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts was encountered during the course of the watching brief.*

*The archive for the archaeological work will be held by University of Leicester Archaeological Services under the temporary site code HSW.2011 until deposition can be arranged with the relevant repository.*

### **1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr S. Perkins to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the proposed re-development at 55 High Street, Welford, Northamptonshire (SP 64475 80720; *Figures 1 & 2*). The proposed development area was located on low lying land on northern edge of the village; the southernmost part of the area contained the footprint of a recently demolished bungalow. The groundworks consisted of “grubbing out” the foundation trenches of this bungalow. The proposed development of two new residential units will use pre-cast concrete piles and a ring beam, therefore, no further significant ground disturbance will occur.

The Northamptonshire Sites and Monument Record (SMR) indicates that the proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological interest, located within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Welford, which itself is a medieval market town. Aerial photography has recorded a number of features to the south and east of the development site. Those nearer the river are thought to represent medieval dams, drains and other water management features while those further south appear to be tofts. To the north of the site, at the junction of Welford Road and Naseby Road and beside the river, the site of a medieval leper hospital is recorded in the county Historic Environment Record. Archaeological work in 2000, on the opposite side of the High Street, identified Romano-British activity. A pit was found containing pottery dating from the 3rd to 4th centuries. Unstratified Roman pottery has also been found in the vicinity.

The Planning Archaeologist, Northamptonshire County Council as advisor to Daventry District Council advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon

buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance was approved. This consisted of a watching brief carried out during the groundworks undertaken by the client's contractors. This work followed Planning Policy Statement 5 (*Planning and the Historic Environment*) (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2010).



Figure 1. Site location

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## 2. Aims and Methodology

The aims of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, were:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy. The methodology to be followed was detailed in the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* (ULAS 11-377).

All groundworks were carried out by a 14 tonne back actor fitted with a toothed bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The watching brief took place on September 2nd 2011.

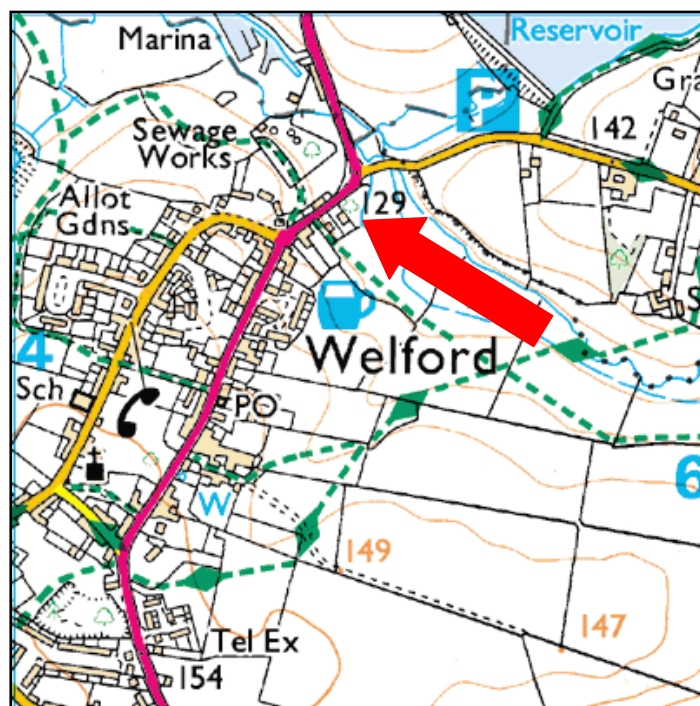


Figure 2 Welford village centre in detail.

## 3. Results

The recently demolished bungalow was set back from the High Street frontage, near the south westernmost boundary of the proposed development area. The grubbing out trenches were approximately 1.3 metres wide and reached depths of between 1.7 metres and 2 metres below the current ground level, dependent on the depth of the footing being removed. An examination of the exposed stratigraphy indicated

significant 20th century build up had occurred within the proposed development area. Undisturbed substratum was only observed within the base of the trenches, the exposed sections were all rubble in-fill.

Because the grubbed out footings were limited to the south western part of the proposed development area it was decided, with the agreement of Mr Perkins, to excavate a trial hole within the proposed footprint of the north easternmost new build. The trial hole confirmed that the build up, seen previously, continued and reached a similar depth, within this part of the proposed development area.

No remains of archaeological importance were observed within the proposed development area nor were any finds of archaeological significance recovered.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape within the medieval village of Welford, but no evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of this watching brief. It appears that the low lying nature of the site resulted in prolonged and extensive dumping in order to raise it above the adjacent floodplain.

#### **5. Archive & Publication**

The site archive consists of:

CD containing 15 digital images

1 A4 contact sheet

1 A4 watching brief sheet

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-137)

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by University of Leicester Archaeological Services under the temporary site code HSW.2011 until deposition can be arranged with the relevant repository.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition and placed on the Oasis database.

#### **6. References**

Department for Communities and Local Government March 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning and the Historic Environment)*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

IfA, 2010 *Code of Conduct*

ULAS, 2011, *Design Specification for Archaeological work* (ULAS 11-377).

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**Figure 3** Extent of modern disturbance visible in grubbing out trenches.



## **Appendix: Oasis Record**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	High Street, Welford
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: None. Future: None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 64475 80720
Start/end dates of field work	Sept 2011
Archive Recipient	Unknown
Height min/max	130mOD
Study Area	N/A
Finds	None

## Contact Details

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