



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological
Watching Brief at
8a Main Street,
Frisby-on-the-Wreake,
Leicestershire,**

NGR: SK 694 176

Gavin Speed

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
8a Main Street,
Frisby-on-the-Wreake,
Leicestershire
(SK 694 176)**

Gavin Speed

For: Glencoe Homes

Approved by:

Signed Date: 00/10/2012

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 8a Main Street, Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire.

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 8a Main Street, Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire (SK 694 176). The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed development. No archaeological finds or significant deposits were located. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service, accession no. XA.86.2012.

1. Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for Glencoe Homes on 2nd October 2012, on land at 8a Main Street, Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire (SK 694 176). This was undertaken in advance of a proposed development involving the construction of a single detached dwelling (planning application no: 09/00807/FUL, Figure 3).

Planning permission has been granted by Melton Borough Council for residential development at the above site, with a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation. This was to comprise an archaeological watching brief of the affected area, together with archaeological excavation and recording of affected deposits as necessary. This report presents the results of the investigation, the work was undertaken in accordance with NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development site lies in Frisby-on-the-Wreake (Figure 1), in the Melton district of Leicestershire, c.4.5 miles west of Melton Mowbray. The site lies within the historic core of the village off Main Street, directly to the east of no.8 (Figure 2). The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 142 (Melton Mowbray) indicates that the underlying geology consists of Blue Lias Formation mudstone, overlain by Thrussington Member Diamicton, the land lies at a height of c.70m O.D. The application area was fronted by a brick wall and gate with outbuildings to the rear (see Hunt 2012, 9), these were demolished just prior to the groundworks observed herein.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The following comes from a desk-based assessment of the development area, undertaken as a first stage in assessing the impact of the proposals (Hunt 2012, 4):

3.1 Historical Background

The place name of Frisby, written as “Frisebie” at the time of Domesday Book in 1086, is derived from the Old Scandinavian for “farmstead or village of the Frisians” . The Frisians were a Germanic ethnic group, who entered the British Isles and established colonies at around the same time as the Angles and the Saxons. The prefix ‘on the Wreake’ was later added to differentiate the village from Frisby by Gaulby in Harborough. The Wreake is also an Old Scandinavian river name meaning twisted or winding (Mills 2003). Domesday Book shows that part of the land in Frisby belonged to King William at the time of the survey. It notes that this land contained 8 carucates of land, 4 acres of meadow and 2 shillings from part of a mill. Earl Hugh held another part of the land in Frisby. This included 1½ carucates of land, 4 acres of meadow and a Mill rendering 28d (Morris 1979).

3.2 Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that there are no known archaeological remains located within the assessment area itself. There are a few known archaeological sites and historic buildings within the vicinity of the assessment area. The site lies within the medieval historic core of the village (HER Ref. MLE3741) and within the Conservation Area. A small quantity of Iron Age or early Roman pottery was retrieved from a site in Sunnyside, which lies 250m north-east of the assessment area (MLE3733). The site lies within the medieval settlement core of the village (MLE3741). The field to the south-east of the site was called ‘Hall Orchard’ and contains earthworks, possibly relating to the site of an old hall here (MLE3737). Further medieval earthworks are located 300m north-west of the assessment area (MLE3728) and 300m to the north-east (MLE3740); the site of a medieval mill lies nearby (MLE3731). Human bones have been found within a garden at Mill Lane (MLE9548). They are most likely associated with the nearby churchyard. A watching brief carried out in 2001 along Mill Lane located medieval and post-medieval material (Higgins 2002) and an archaeological evaluation carried out by ULAS in 2003 located medieval and post-medieval remains and pottery (MLE9626). The Grade I Listed 13th century Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury lies 180m north-east of the site (MLE11574). Around 100m to the west of the site is the medieval market cross. It was probably built in 1350 (MLE11581). An archaeological watching brief in 2002 revealed traces cobbled road surface along Water Lane and Main Street, around 60m from the site, with associated finds dating from the 17th and 18th centuries (MLE9396). There are a number of Listed and other historic buildings close to the assessment area, dating from the post-medieval period. The closest to the site are Dawson’s farmhouse and adjoining stables, which lie almost opposite the site at 11, Main Street (MLE11577). The Old Star Cottage at 1, Main Street, 75m west of the site, is 17th century in origin (MLE17586).

The Leicestershire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site lies within the medieval village core of Cadeby, opposite the parish church of All Saints (MLE12152) and adjacent to a 16th-century timber framed building (MLE12153). A previous archaeological evaluation conducted on the site in 2009 (X.A157.2009) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services encountered a possible quarry feature and ditch or gully and a further linear feature located at the foot of a seemingly natural slope may represent a post-medieval or modern drainage ditch or gully for water run-off.

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological investigation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

The fieldwork involved the supervision of overburden removal and other ground-works by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2012) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

6. Results

Modern (20th century) concrete was removed over the street-front area (Figure 4). Below this was a mixed hardcore with garden soil. Below this were natural substratum consisting of sand and patches of clay (Figure 5). Further back from the street front was a thicker deposit of brick and a dark blackish topsoil, below which was natural sands (Figure 6). No archaeological finds or deposits were located within these areas. Overall the area seems sterile and devoid of any activity.

A brick-lined well (Figure 7) was observed in the south-west corner mid-way back from the street. It is understood to be retained as a garden feature.

Stone foundations were observed along the western and north edge (Figures 8-10), these were likely to have been the foundations for the former cottage that stood on the site. The building dates to at least the 19th century (it is on the 1st edition OS map, see Figure 11), and appears in later editions until the 1973 map. It is understood that a local neighbour (in her 80s) recalls the former cottage prior to its demolition.

7. Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief has confirmed the absence of surviving archaeological deposits or finds within the area. As the cartographic evidence indicates, this land has been a used for residential housing since the 19th century until 1973, by which time the cottage was demolished, and the absence of any archaeological evidence indicates the land had been used as such for many years previously, or removed any earlier evidence.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service, accession no. XA.86.2012.

The archive contains:

- Recording sheets (x1)
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives (x1 film)

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>, record number: universi1-135442.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	8a Main Street, Frisby on the Wreake, Leicestershire
Summary	No archaeological finds or deposits.
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: no. / Future: unlikely
Current Land Use	Outhouse
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF (section 12)
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 694 176
Start/end dates of field work	02/10/2012
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museum Service
Study Area	0.1ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.86.2012 OASIS form ID: universi1-135442

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

10. Bibliography

- Hunt, L., 2012 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Land off Main Street, Frisby on the Wreake, Leicestershire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services unpublished report 2012-011.
- Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- Institute for Archaeologists 2010 *Code of Conduct*.

- NPPF 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework.*
- ULAS 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance, inspection, and recording at Main Street, Frisby on the Wreake, Leicestershire.* ULAS unpublished document. 12/226 (R. Buckley 18/07/2012).

11. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Richard Gennard of Glencoe Homes Ltd for help and co-operation with this project. The archaeological work was carried out by Gavin Speed of ULAS. Patrick Clay managed the project. Richard Clark of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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11/10/2012

Appendix: Figures

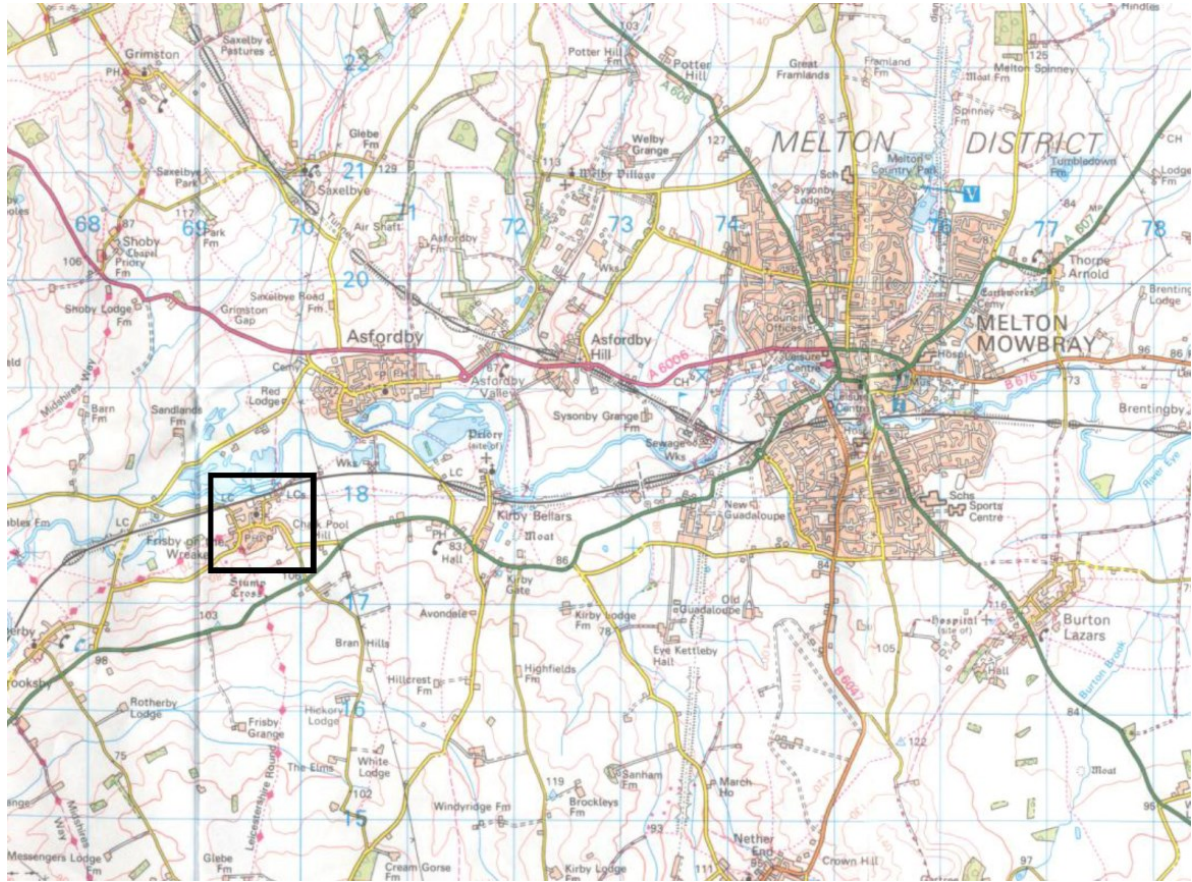


Figure 1: Location plan

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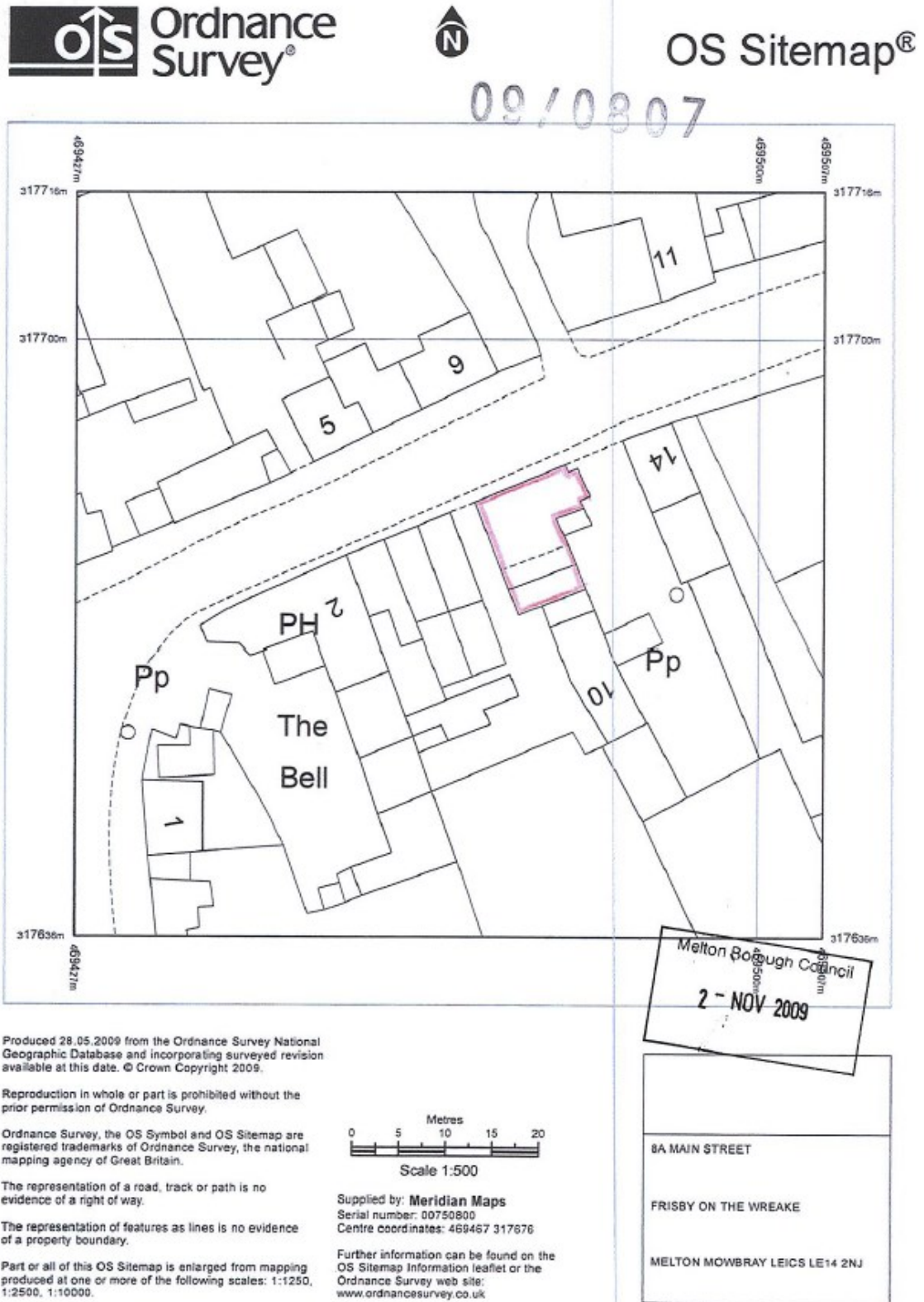


Figure 2: Detailed location plan (proved by client)

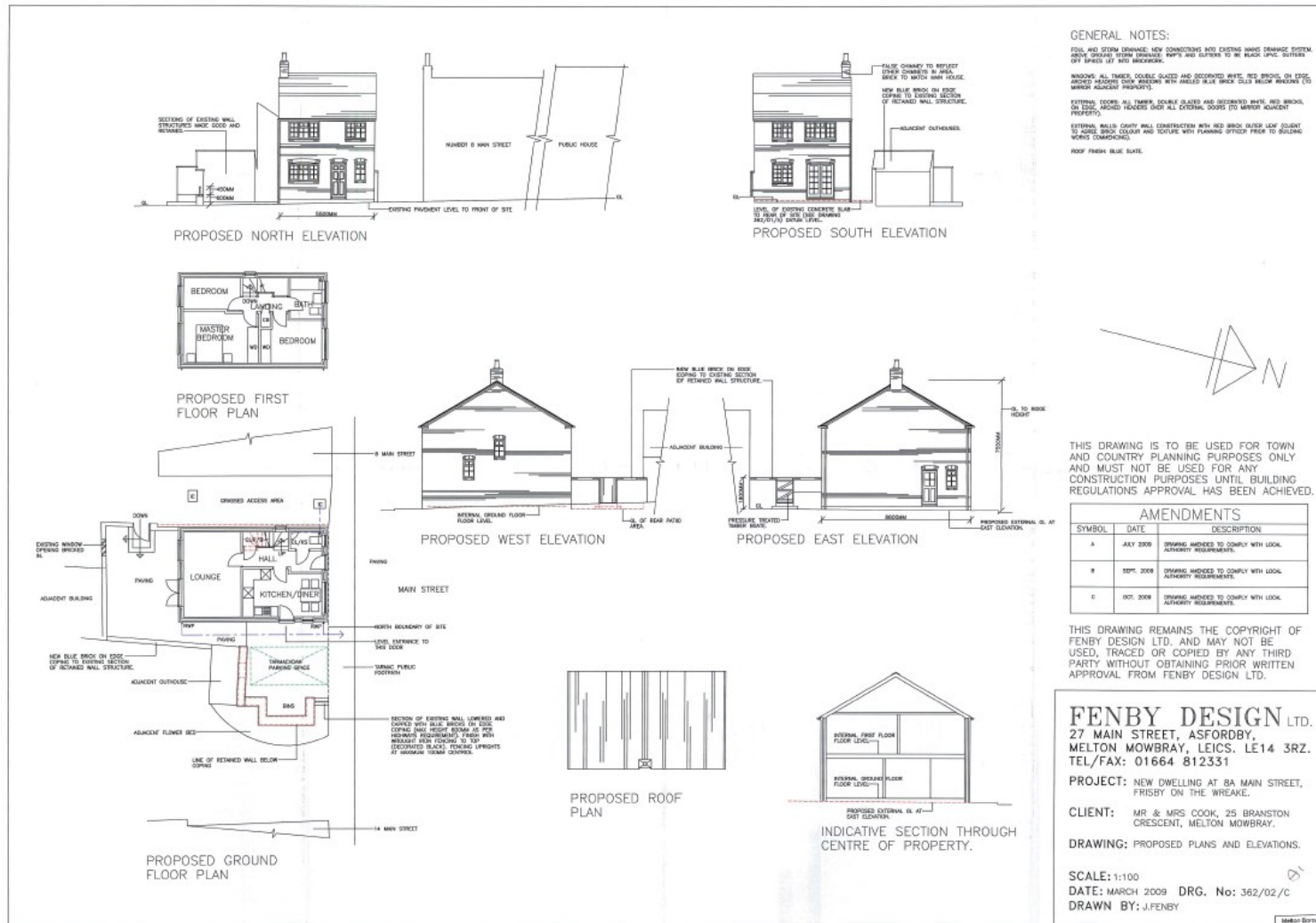


Figure 3: Proposed development plans (provided by client)



Figure 4: Concrete / hardcore being removed



Figure 5: Natural sands and gravels, 1m scale, looking east



Figure 6: Rear of site, looking south



Figure 7: Brick-lined well



Figure 8: Stone footings, 1m scale, looking north



Figure 9: Stone footings removed, 1m scale



Figure 10: Stone footings, 1m scale, looking north towards street-frontage



Figure 11: 1886 Ordnance Survey map, standing buildings indicated by arrow (after Hunt 2010, 5)

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