



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Sapcote Post Office,
Stanton Road,
Sapcote, Leicestershire
(SP 489 935)**

Gerwyn Richards



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at Sapcote Post Office, Stanton Road,
Sapcote, Leicestershire.
(NGR SP 489 935)**

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 10/0902/1/PX
For: Spencers Building Contractors, Sapcote.

Checked by

Signed:
Date: 9 May 2011
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An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Sapcote Post Office, Stanton Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire (SP 489 935)

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Spencers Building Contractors (Sapcote) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of new single storey extension to the rear of Sapcote Post Office, Sapcote, Leicestershire.

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

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A59. 2011.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Spencers Building Contractors (Sapcote) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey extension to the Post Office, Stanton Road, Sapcote (SP 489 935; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located to the rear of the Post Office on the eastern side of Stanton Road. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the proposed development area lies in an area of archaeological interest, located adjacent to the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Sapcote (HER Ref MLE292). Both medieval and Roman pottery (HER Ref MLE6653 & MLE9356) have been found nearby, as well as evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation (HER Ref MLE8512 & MLE15770). In addition, the site is to the north of Sapcote Castle, which is a Scheduled Monument (HER Ref MLE279, SM17036). Other archaeologically significant remains are known to be within the vicinity of the proposed development.

The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Blaby 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).

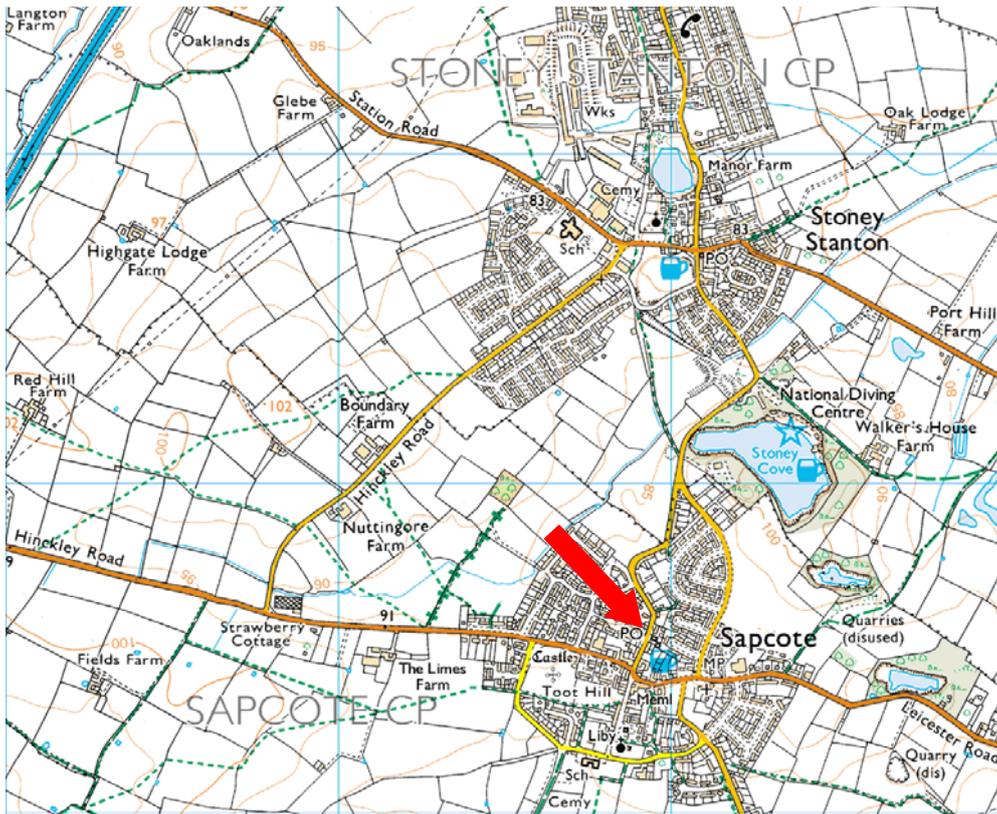


Figure 1. Site location

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, was to:

- 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* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008), the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) 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 11-176).

All groundworks were carried out by a 1.5 tonne mini digger 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 May 4th 2011.



Figure 2 Area of archaeological watching brief (in red).
(Supplied by Client, Not to Scale)

3. Results

The proposed development area is located to the rear of the Post Office, abutting the east-west wing and extending towards the north (*Figures 2 & 5*); formally a garden area. A total of six footing trenches were excavated, all 0.55m wide and approximately 1m deep. There was approximately 0.4m of garden soil overlying the undisturbed yellowish grey-brown sandy clay substrata. All the trenches uncovered the same undisturbed substrata. No remains of archaeological importance were observed within any of the trenches nor were any finds of archaeological significance recovered.

4. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape to the north of the medieval village of Sapcote, but no evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of

this watching brief. There was no evidence of recent ground disturbance, suggesting that the proposed development area is likely always to have been un-occupied.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet containing section, sketch plan & site notes
- 9 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 9 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 1 A4 watching brief sheet
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-064)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A59. 2011.

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Historical & Archaeological Society* in due course.

6. References

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

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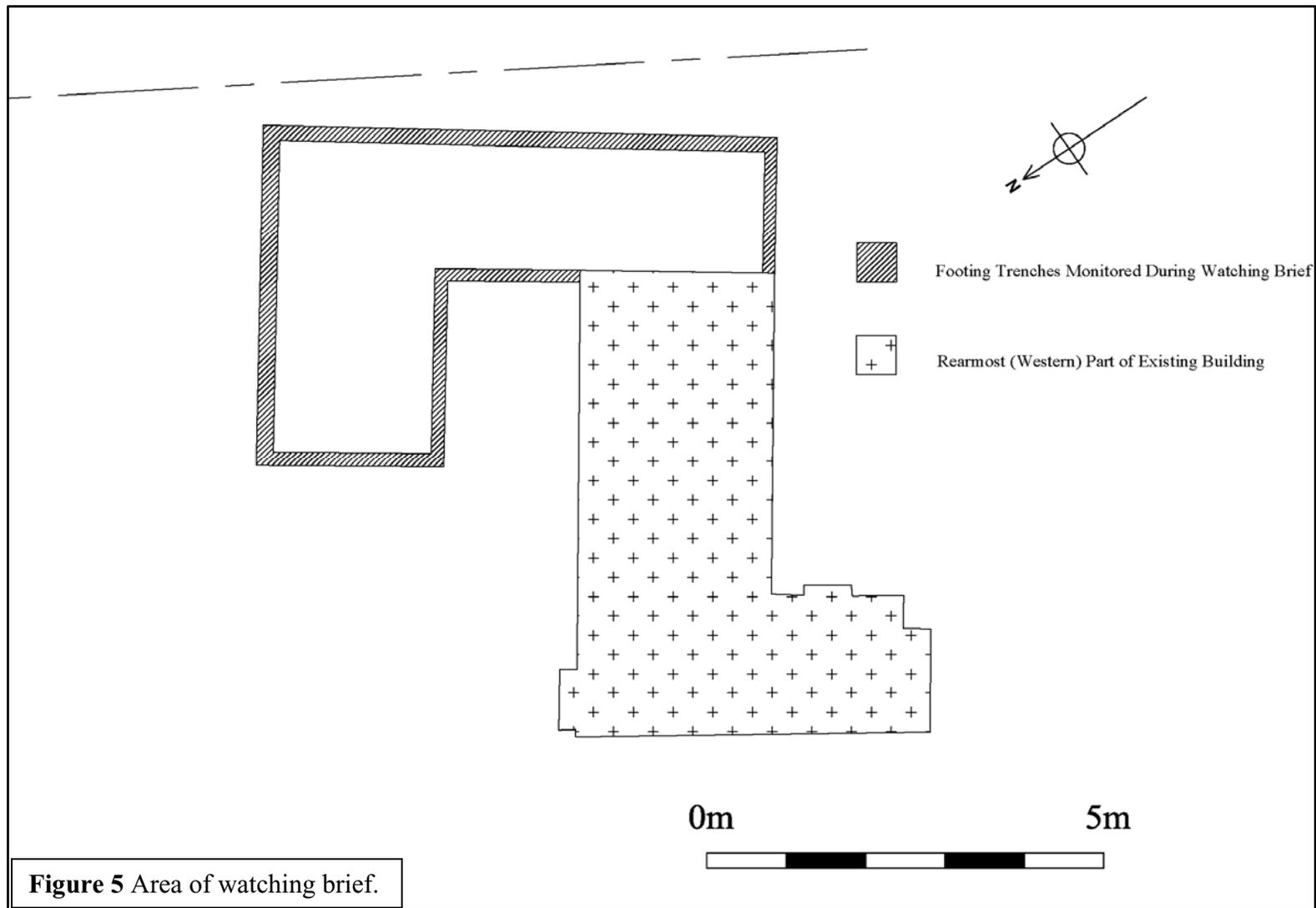
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Figure 3 Work in progress (looking south west).



Figure 4 East-south east facing section (southern end).



Appendix: Oasis

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Sapcote Post Office
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
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 489 935
Start/end dates of field work	May 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	90mOD
Study Area	N/A
Finds	None

Contact Details

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