

**An Archaeological Watching Brief for a
Proposed Stable Block and Hard Standing,
Rear of 59 Church Street,
Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 470 982)**

Sam George

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

For Ms J. Whitmore

Planning Application: P/04/0653/4, P/04/00184/4

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief for a Proposed Stable and Hard Standing,
59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 470 982)**

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An Archaeological Watching Brief for a Proposed Stable Block and Hard Standing, 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SK 470 982).

1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during September 2004 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services during groundworks for the proposed stable block and hard standing at 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. The watching brief was required as a condition of the planning permission by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The site lies within the medieval core of Earl Shilton and close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Earl Shilton Castle (SAM 17035), and was seen to have a high potential for containing archaeological remains. No archaeological features were seen and no significant archaeological finds were recovered during the observed groundworks at the site. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team under the Accession Number X.A212.2004.

2 Introduction

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for a proposed stable block and hard standing at 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (fig. 1). The archaeological works were commissioned by Ms J. Whitmore.

2.2 The site had been identified as an area of high archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record, lying just inside the medieval village core of Earl Shilton. A desk-based assessment had been prepared for an adjacent area (ULAS Report 2004-081). In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was required as part of the planning conditions set out by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (Planning Application no. P/04/0653/4, P/04/00184/4).

2.3 In view of the archaeological potential of the area, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken. This was in accordance with the Department of Environmental Planning Policy Guideline No. 16 (PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning 1990).

3 Historical Background

3.1 Shilton, the 'Earl' being added later, is first recorded in Domesday Book when land was held by Hugh of Grandmesnil (Morgan 1979). A priest and mill are also mentioned. By the 13th century Earl Shilton was part of Leicester Forest (Hoskins 1954, 267). Earl Shilton was part of the lands forfeit by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, after his

death at the Battle of Evesham in 1265. A castle was situated at Earl Shilton and was possibly used as a hunting lodge by the Earls of Leicester. The placename Shilton means 'farmstead on a shelf or ledge', with the affix Earl from its early possession by the Earls of Leicester (Mills 1998).

3.2 During the 17th century Earl Shilton was known for framework knitting. By the late 18th century the making of cotton hosiery was established here, as well as in Barwell. The economic problems of this industry led to the establishment of the garden allotment system in Earl Shilton in 1843 (Hoskins and McKinley 1955, 14). By the late 19th century Earl Shilton had become a major manufacturer of footwear.

3.3 The development site is located directly across the road from the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the remains of the Earl Shilton Castle (**LE2849, SAM 17035**). Earthworks remain of the Earl Shilton Castle, which dated to the early medieval period. The castle was founded some time after the Norman Conquest, and demolished in or about the 12th century (Cantor 1977-8). A large motte c. 10' high by 120' wide is surrounded by a ditch. The extent of the bailey may be represented by the churchyard, and there seems to be a strong relationship between the castle and church (Creighton 1997). The Earls of Leicester owned the castle in the medieval period.

4 Aims and Methods

4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. The work also was in accordance with the Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (1997)* and followed the *Design specification for archaeological work (ULAS 25.8.2004; Appendix)*.

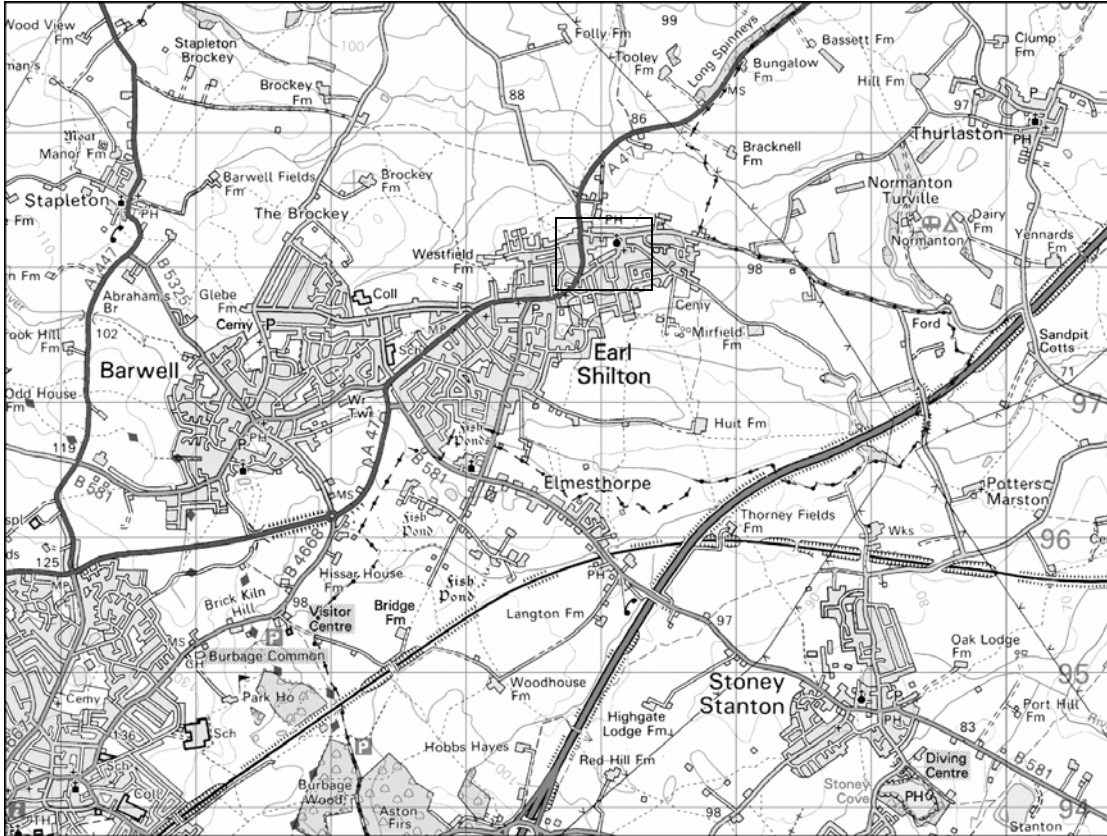


Fig. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 140 Leicester area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

4.2 The archaeological work was carried out on the 2nd of September 2004. One site visit was needed to monitor the removal of topsoil and subsoil in the areas of the driveway and proposed stable.

4.3 The aims of the watching brief were:

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



Fig. 2. Location of development area, with sketch of proposed stable block (supplied by Ms Whitmore, scale unknown).

5 Geology

5.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sand and gravel overlying Boulder Clay. During the watching brief, the underlying geology was found to primarily consist of sandy clay.

6 Results

6.1 The stripping of topsoil and subsoil was undertaken by a JCB 3 using 1.50m wide flat-bladed bucket. Archaeological observation and a record were made during the excavation, and spoil from the stripping was examined for finds.

6.2 The initial part of the watching brief consisted of removing the topsoil from the driveway leading off Church Street to the area of the proposed stable. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.15m to the end of the fence line (start of the paddock). Only

modern material was observed throughout this area. Topsoil was removed in order to introduce hard core along the driveway. A footpath runs along the east side of the driveway in this area.



Fig. 3. Photograph of topsoil stripping in the area of the driveway, facing north.

6.3 The driveway was then extended from the start of the paddock to the area of the proposed stable block and hard standing. Topsoil and subsoil was removed to a depth of 0.3-0.45m. No archaeological features were exposed in this area. Fragmentary modern brick, glass and ceramics were observed. The subsoil consisted of patches of mid-orange brown sand and light to dark grey clay.

6.4 Topsoil and subsoil was also removed from the area of the stable block and hard standing to a depth of 0.3-0.45m. No archaeological features were observed, and very few fragmentary modern pottery sherds and glass pieces were identified. The subsoil consisted of patches of mid-orange brown sand and light to dark grey clay. Some small to medium rounded pebbles were observed beneath the topsoil.



Fig. 4. Photograph of topsoil and subsoil stripping in area of stable block and hard standing, facing north.

6.5 No significant archaeological finds were observed during the watching brief. Some modern (20th century) pottery sherds were present in the topsoil and spoil heaps. After identification, this pottery was discarded.

7 Discussion

7.1 No archaeological features or finds were observed during the watching brief for a proposed stable and hard standing at 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton.

7.2 Although the development site is located within the historic core of the village, it is likely that the site area was used as agricultural land during the medieval period. As a result of this little archaeological evidence would survive. The site is indicated as open farmland on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area.

8 Archive

8.1 The archive will be held by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, which consists of a written record of the watching brief and digital photographs (Accession Number X.A212.2004).

9 Publication

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

10 Acknowledgements

10.1 The watching brief was undertaken by Sam George. I would like to thank Jane Whitmore for her help and assistance. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

11 References

- | | | |
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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological watching brief

*Proposed stable block and hard standing, 59, Chapel Street, Earl Shilton,
Leicestershire (SK 470 982)*

Planning Application: 04/0653/4; 04/00184/4

For: Ms J Whitmore

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification is for an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a stable block and hard standing for land north of 59 Church Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP 470 982; P.A.04/0653/4; 04/00184/4 Figs. 1-2).

1.2 It addresses part of the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30 detailed in the letter of 9.3.2004 from Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services).

2. Background

2.1. The proposed development is for the erection of a stable block and associated hard standing with access road within an area of c.0.12 ha (Fig. 1). Previous archaeological work comprises a desk-based assessment for another application (P.A 04/00172/4; ULAS Report 2004/082) which indicated that there was archaeological potential in the area as the site is within the historic core of Earl Shilton and close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Earl Shilton Castle (SAM 17035). A programme of archaeological work comprising a watching has been requested by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of the archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed. If identified a sufficient sample to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental data will be recorded. Further archaeological recording may be required in the light of the results of this programme.

4 General Methodology

4.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the client and Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

4.4 On the basis of a site visit the application area is within a pasture field.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The groundworks are scheduled to start on September 2 2004. It is envisaged that a single professional archaeologist will be required on-site for the majority of the watching brief works.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

11. Bibliography

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MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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25.8.2004

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

***Proposed stable block and hard standing, 59, Chapel Street, Earl Shilton,
Leicestershire (SK 470 982)***

Planning Application: 04/0653/4; 04/00184/4

For: Ms J Whitmore

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Patrick Clay
25.8.2004