

Archaeological Services

Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording during groundworks at Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire

Mireya González Rodríguez



Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording during groundworks at Leicestershire Constabulary, St Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire

NGR SP 5535 9958

Mireya González Rodríguez

For: Leicestershire Constabulary

Approved by:

Signed:

Date: 11.08.2015

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614 www.le.ac.uk/ulas

ULAS Report Number 2015-129 ©2015

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Site Description, Topography and Geology	1
3.	Historical and Archaeological Background.	1
4.	Aims and Objectives	3
5.	Methodology	4
6.	Results	4
7.	Conclusion	5
8.	Archive	5
9.	Publication	5
10.	Bibliography	6
11.	Acknowledgements	6
	FIGURES	
Fig	ure 1. Site Location (Scale 1: 25000)	2
Fig	ure 2. Location of proposed development and land use	2
Fig	ure 3. Proposed site (provided by client)	3
	ure 4. Modern drain trench	
Fig	ure 5 Concentration of charcoal	4

Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording during groundworks at Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire. NGR SP 5535 9958

Mireya González Rodríguez

Summary

Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording was undertaken on behalf of Leicestershire Constabulary during groundworks for the provision of a Vehicle Training Area and Helicopter Landing Pad at St. Johns, Enderby, by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in August 2015. The work involving the excavation and levelling in preparation for the vehicle training area and helicopter landing pad was monitored by an archaeologist. No archaeological deposits were revealed during the groundworks. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number XA107.2014.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services during groundworks associated with the establishment of a Vehicle Training Area and Helicopter Landing Pad at St. Johns, Enderby. The archaeological work was required as a condition of planning permission by Blaby District Council on the advice of the Leicestershire County Council, Senior Planning Archaeologist (P.A.15/0255/1/FUL).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The archaeological work took place on the land at Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire. The site lies north of Ratby Meadow Lane with Harborough Road south to the west, and fields to the east and south.

The soils of the site are of the Salop Association which comprise 'slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged associated with reddish fine loamy clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils' (711m: Soil Survey 1983, Sheet 3). Solid geology below this is of Lias formation.

The site lies on flat ground at *c*.72m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest.

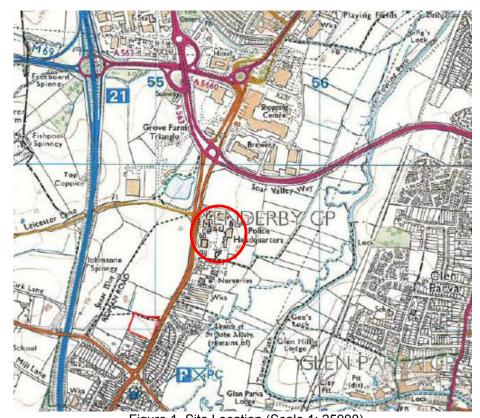


Figure 1. Site Location (Scale 1: 25000)

Reproduced from the Explorer 233 Leicester & Hinckley area 1:25 000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved.

Licence number AL 100029495



Figure 2. Location of proposed development and land use

An Iron Age site was recorded during work in 1993-1994 approximately 60m to the east of the proposed development (HER Ref. MLE96). Extensive archaeological activity has also

been recorded to the north and west (MLE7688, MLE 16568-9, MLE16060-1, MLE17757 and MLE200819), which includes burials, a Roman road and Iron Age settlement. Five hundred metres to the west, archaeological excavations in 2008 located Roman burials and an Iron Age and Roman boundary system (Harvey 2011). Fieldwork is currently being undertaken in the field 300m north of the proposed development where archaeological deposits dating back to the Iron Age and Roman periods are being excavated (Kipling forthcoming). There was therefore a likelihood that similar archaeological remains could be present within the application site and could be disturbed by the proposed groundworks, including topsoil removal prior to laying the new hard surfacing and any associated drainage works.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority, has requested Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording as mitigation against the possible impact of the development.



Figure 3. Proposed site (provided by client)

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any 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.

5. Methodology

The programme of work comprised the stripping of topsoil in an area measuring 50.5mx52m with a JCB 100C mechanical excavator.

The machine stripping of the areas was visually inspected and the removed soil was described and checked for signs of archaeological activity or potential. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS recording forms.

The work adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

6. Results

The archaeological work, comprising the observation of the ground reduction by mechanical excavator, revealed topsoil overlying made ground, to a maximum depth c.0.30m and a 0.25m minimum depth. No archaeological deposits were observed.



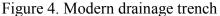




Figure 5. Concentration of charcoal

The topsoil and made ground was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The made ground, comprising a layer of grey brown slightly sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded

cobbles, was excavated. Inclusions included concrete, brick, glass and patches of macadam. A modern drain trench has been exposed running diagonally on the northwest corner of the site (Figure 4). Modern disturbance was also observed across the centre of site. A high concentration of charcoal was uncovered in the area to the northeast (Figure 5), possibly related to the building compound from the 1980s when the Training Centre building was erected. The topsoil was sealing the disturbed natural substrata consisting of orangey brown loamy clay and gravels.

7. Conclusion

Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording undertaken on the land at St. Johns, Enderby during the stripping of topsoil in preparation for the Vehicle Training and Helicopter Landing Pad revealed modern made up ground and disturbed natural substrata at a relatively shallow depth. No deposits of archaeological origin were identified during the work.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicester City Council, under the Accession No: XA107.2014.

The archive contains site notes (watching brief pro forma recording sheets), digital photographs and photograph index.

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/

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 will be added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

OASIS Information

Project Name	Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby
Project Type	Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	M González Rodríguez
Previous/Future work	Previous

Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Helicopter landing pad
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning	Condition
Process	
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 5535 9958
Start/end dates of field work	August 2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	Enderby

10. Bibliography

- Brown, D. 2008. Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists).
- Clay, P. 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: Vehicle Training Area and Helicopter Landing Pad: Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby. University of Leicester Archaeological Services.
- Harvey, J. 2011. 'An Iron Age Boundary System and Roman Burials at Leicester Lane/St Johns, Enderby'. *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **85**, 51-72.

Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014. Code of Conduct.

Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

11. Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation on site.

Dr. Mireya González Rodríguez University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) University Road Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 2522848 Fax: 0116 252 2614 e-mail: ulas@le.ac.uk

ULAS Report No: 2015-129

10.08.2015

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848 **F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614 **E:** ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas















