



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

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

Mireya González Rodríguez




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

NGR SP 5535 9958

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For: Leicestershire Constabulary

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Summary

Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording was undertaken on behalf of Leicestershire Constabulary during groundworks for the extension of an existing car park at St. Johns, Enderby by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in July 2014. The work involving the excavation and levelling in preparation for the extension to the car park 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 extension of the existing car park to provide 102 additional spaces at Leicestershire Constabulary, Enderby (**Error! Reference source not found.**).



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

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.14/0145/1/PY).

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).



Figure 2. Location of proposed development

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.

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 excavation in 2008 located roman burials and an iron Age and Roman boundary system (Harvey 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. Development area (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 60mx52.7m with a Doosan x172 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 their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008).

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 0.10m minimum depth. No archaeological deposits were observed.

The topsoil and made ground was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m on the west side of the site. The slight slope of the site towards the west has meant that only the turf has been removed on the east side of the site. Therefore, any archaeological deposits may have been obscured by the topsoil. 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. 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 in preparation for the extension of the existing car park only revealed 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

<i>Project Name</i>	Leicestershire Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby
<i>Project Type</i>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<i>Project Manager</i>	Patrick Clay
<i>Project Supervisor</i>	M González Rodríguez
<i>Previous/Future work</i>	Previous
<i>Current Land Use</i>	None
<i>Development Type</i>	Car Park
<i>Reason for Investigation</i>	NPPF
<i>Position in the Planning Process</i>	Condition
<i>Site Co ordinates</i>	NGR SP 5535 9958
<i>Start/end dates of field work</i>	July 2014
<i>Archive Recipient</i>	Leicestershire County Council
<i>Study Area</i>	Enderby

10. Bibliography

Brown, D. (2008). *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Clay, P. (2014). *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: Extension to Existing Car Park Area to Provide 102 Additional Spaces, Leicester Constabulary, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicestershire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

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11. Acknowledgements

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

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Figure 4 Stripped surface of west side of the area looking south

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