



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance at Burbage
Infants School, Grove Road, Burbage,
Leicestershire,
NGR: SP442 924**

James Patrick



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at Burbage Infants School,
Grove Road, Burbage,
Leicestershire,**

NGR:SP 442 924

James Patrick

for

Leicestershire County Council.

P. A 14/00718/

Approved by:

Signed:



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Summary

Archaeological Attendance was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Burbage Infants School, Grove Road, Burbage, Leicestershire, NGR: SP 442 924. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) show the development area lies in an area of archaeological interest therefore planning conditions required archaeological attendance during ground works. As the location of the development is within the historic settlement core of Burbage there was potential for archaeological remains. In addition there have also been possible Romano- British features to immediately to the west of the site.

The work was in undertaken during development of the site, on a former tarmac area related to the school. The study area measured approximately 15 by 15 metres where a class room extension was to be constructed. The ground works had already begun where approximately 225 square metres of tarmac had been removed covering almost all of the building area.

The archaeological attendance revealed that the ground had been heavily disturbed by previous structures possibly related to earlier school buildings. The top soil was removed onto a disturbed sub-soil. The new building footings required the removal of earlier building foundations which are likely to have disturbed the area.

The archive for the work will be deposited with accession number X.A9 2015

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to carry out archaeological attendance at Burbage Infants School, Grove Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 442 924).

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have granted planning permission for a Single storey pitch roofed traditional build two classroom extension to the existing building and internal refurbishment (P. A 14/00718/C) (Figure 1-4).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment. The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, had recommended archaeological attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development to record any archaeological remains uncovered.

Location and Geology

The site is located at Burbage Infants School along Grove Road in Burbage. The Nuneaton to Leicester railway line separates Burbage from Hinckley immediately to the north-east. The site is approximately one kilometre away from the M69 motorway which skirts around the south-east of the village. The A5 (Watling Street) is also located approximately two kilometres to the south-west of the site. The British Geological Survey map, England & Wales sheet 169 (Solid & Drift Geology) shows the underlying geology of the site to be

Mercia Mudstone, possibly overlain by Dunsmore Gravel. The site lies at a height of c.120m O.D.

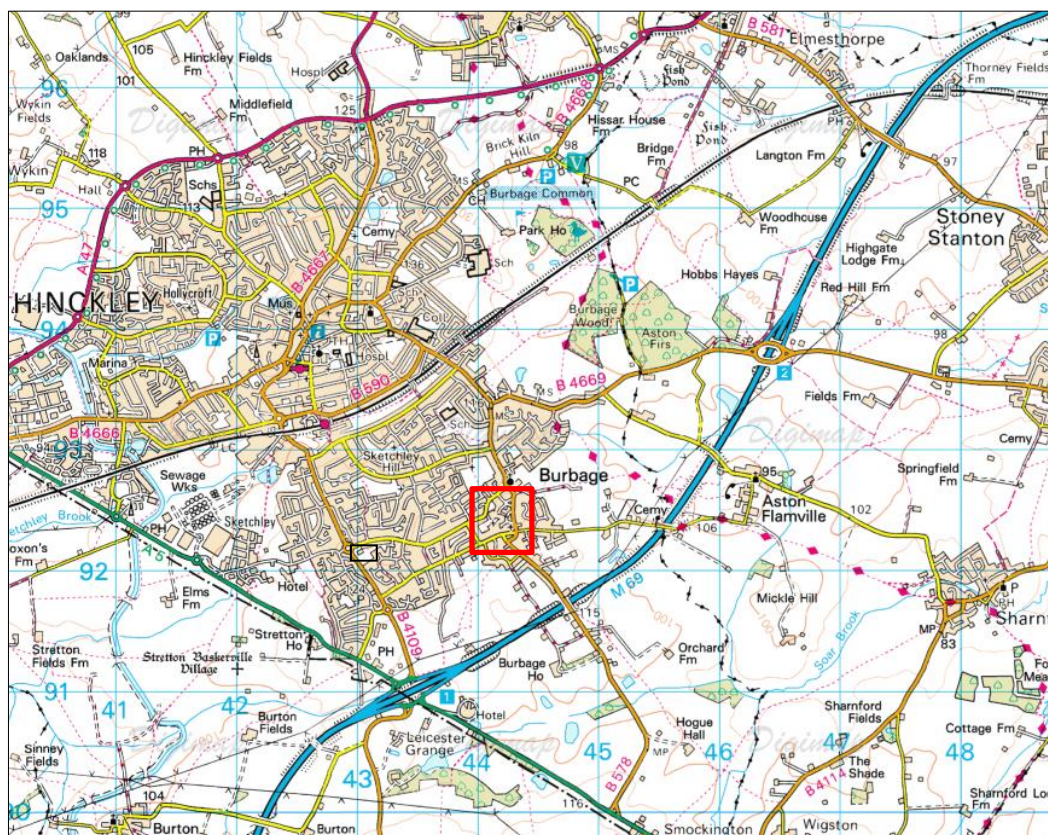


Figure 2: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

Reproduced from the Landranger 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 100029495

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the development area lies within an area of archaeological interest. The site is within the historic settlement core of Burbage (HER ref:MLE2848). Also to the west of the site within the immediate vicinity, features of possible Romano-British date have been revealed. Finds also include an Anglo-Saxon Brooch (HER ref MLE6181) and 12 Roman coins (HER ref MLE2846), also found relatively close to the development.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.



Figure 2. Location of Burbage Infants School (outlined)

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the Archaeological attendance is to record any archaeological deposits on the site in advance of any impact upon them from the

proposed development. Archaeological attendance during ground-works may demonstrate the existence of archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The area was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a 1.5m ditching bucket during top-soil removal.



Figure 3 Current Plan of the School showing proposed new classrooms. Area examined outlined

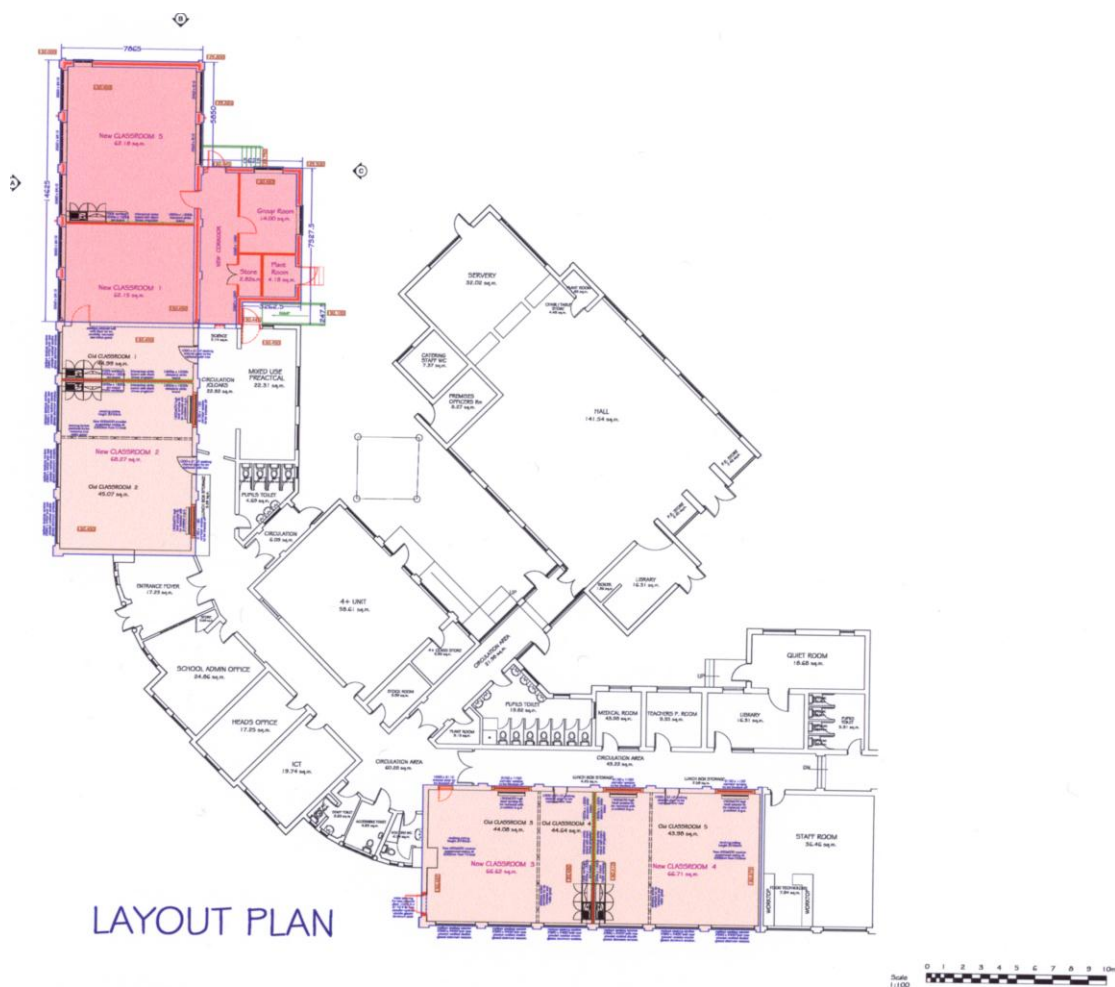


Figure 4: Plan of the proposed redevelopment



Figure 5: View looking west to present school building and of stripped area showing disturbed sub-soil

Results

The archaeological attendance took place on 19.01.2015 and 02.02.2015. No archaeological deposits were encountered during the archaeological attendance of the groundworks. This may in part be due to the amount of modern disturbance associated with earlier building work connected with the school. Most of the new class extension footprint was only excavated down to the sub-soil. The top soil was to an average depth of 0.25m and consisted of a dark greyish brown clayey-silt with modern brick fragments, modern pottery, coal and glass. The sub-soil was heavily disturbed and consisted of a mid-yellow brown silty-clay-loam with frequent coal fragments, some modern plastic, and modern pottery. It was also heavily disturbed by building stanchions and a wall. It was decided not observe the 600mm building footings due to the modern foundations (wall, stanchions) which needed to be removed first destroying any archaeological remains if present. A further visit was made to the site on the 2nd of February 2015. This was to monitor further excavation of footings on less disturbed land to the north and east of the previous building work. No archaeological remains were observed.

Conclusion

Burbage and the surrounding area is of archaeological interest. As the development is situated within the historic settlement core of Burbage there was potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological features. Also there was potential for features from other archaeological periods as Romano-British remains have been revealed immediately west of the site. The site is only approximately two kilometres to the north-east of the A5 (Watling Street former Roman), so there was potential for archaeology.

However partly due to disturbance from previous building work associated with the school, no archaeological deposits were revealed and no finds were recovered.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Shane Spelling of Jeakins Weir Ltd for his co-operation during the watching brief.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A9.2015.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2015-008)
- 1 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Burbage Infants School, Grove Road, Burbage

Summary	Archaeological attendance during groundworks revealed modern disturbance and no evidence of archaeological deposits
Project Type	Archaeological attendance
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	James Patrick
Previous/Future work	
Current Land Use	School
Development Type	New classrooms
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 442 924
Post-code	LE10 2AE
Height (metres above O.D.)	
Start/end dates of field work	19/01//2015 and 02/02/2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	225 sq. metres
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.9.2015 OASIS ID: universi1-000000

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