



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Watching Brief at
The former Towers Hospital,
Gypsy Lane, Leicester
NGR: SK 618 060

Donald Clark



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
The former Towers Hospital,
Gypsy Lane, Leicester**

For: KRT Associates

Planning Authority: Leicester City Council

Planning Application Reference: 20132315

Checked by Project Manager:

Signed:



Date: 18.06.2015

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Archaeological Watching Brief at the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester

Summary

An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the excavation of foundation trenches and associated groundworks at the site of the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester(NGR SK 618 060). The HER records indicate that the site lies close to a possible Roman cemetery and finds of Roman pottery. The archaeological watching brief is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) and also addresses the requirements of Leicester City Council as the planning authority. A substantial amount of groundworks and foundation trenching had taken place prior to archaeological monitoring. No deposits or features of clear archaeological origin were located. The archive will be held the by Leicester City Museums under the Accession Number A32.2014.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken following the excavation of foundation trenches and associated groundworks for a development of 29 dwellings within the grounds of the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester.

Archaeological mitigation in the form of an archaeological watching brief has been requested by the Leicester City Council Archaeological Advisor in the role of advisor to the planning authority. The work took place on the 9th and 13th April 2015 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

Location and Geology

The proposed development is situated within the grounds of the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester (NGR: SK 618 060).

Topographically the site is relatively level and lies at *c.*75m OD. The British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Rhaetic Beds, Mercia Mudstone and Boulder Clay.

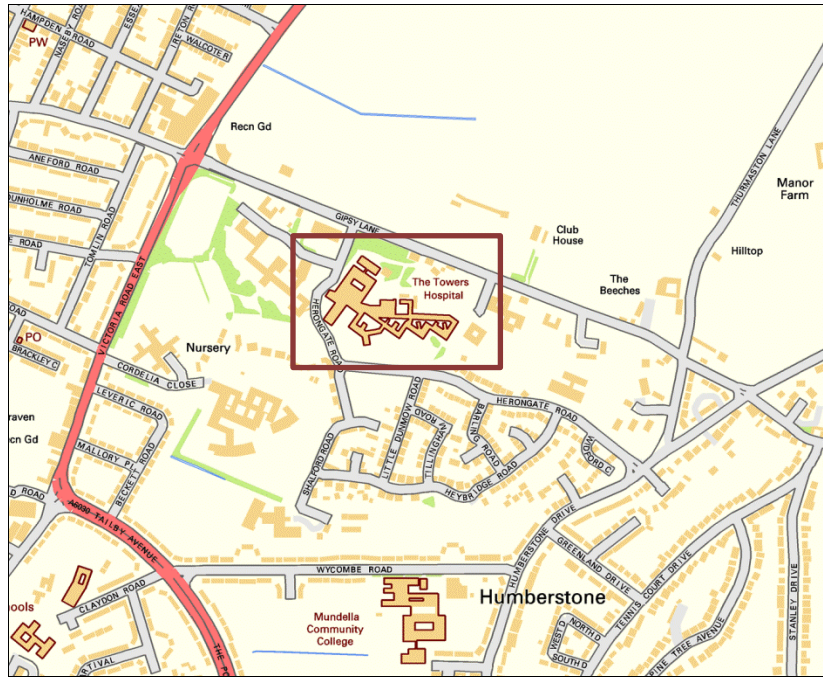


Figure 1: Site location (provided by client)



Figure 2: Proposed development (provided by client)

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Historic Environment Record indicates that the site lies close to a possible Roman cemetery and Roman pottery has been previously found close to, and possibly within, the main development area. Neolithic flint has also been found to the north-east of the site and a post-medieval windmill was formerly located to the east of the area. The fact that the site is located on higher land than the

surrounding area may have encouraged settlement from as early as the prehistoric era. Extensive Iron Age occupation is also known in Humberstone, around 1 km to the north-east. The proposed development area therefore had some potential for containing archaeological remains, particularly of a Roman or prehistoric date.

Aims and Methods

Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation:

- 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs (2014).

The programme of work which required a watching brief was groundworks including the overburden removal and foundation excavation from the residential development. However this was well advanced when ULAS was contacted to carry out the work. The foundation trenches had been excavated using a mini-digger with a 0.45m ditching bucket. Trenches had been excavated prior to the visit to a depth of c. 3m and any which were still open were visually inspected and recorded, where necessary, following standard ULAS recording methodology.

Results

The site was visited on the 9th and 13th of April 2015. The foundation trenches had already been excavated and associated groundworks had disturbed the development area. It appeared from inspection of the foundation trenches that no archaeological deposits or features had been affected by the work, but as the surrounding areas had been tracked on by heavy earth moving machinery further inspection was not possible.



Figure 3: General view of site looking east. 13th April 2015



Figure 4: General view of site looking north. 13th April 2015



Figure 5: General view of site looking north-east. 13th April 2015

Conclusion

An Archaeological watching brief took place following the excavation of foundation trenches and associated groundworks within the grounds of the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester. The trenches and groundworks had been excavated previously without archaeological monitoring. No deposits of archaeological origin were recorded and no archaeological finds were recovered.

Archive

The archive will be held by the Leicester City Museums Service under the Accession Number A32.2014, and contains Final Report and Digital photographs.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a local archaeological journal in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	The former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester
Summary	<i>An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the</i>

	<i>excavation of foundation trenches and associated groundworks at the site of the former Towers Hospital, Gipsy Lane, Leicester(NGR SK 618 060). The HER records indicate that the site lies close to a possible Roman cemetery and finds of Roman pottery. The archaeological watching brief is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) and also addresses the requirements of Leicester City Council as the planning authority. A substantial amount of groundworks and foundation trenching had taken place prior to archaeological monitoring. No deposits or features of clear archaeological origin were located. The archive will be held the by Leicester City Museums under the Accession Number A32.2014.</i>
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Donald Clark
Previous/Future work	
Current Land Use	Hospital grounds
Development Type	Residential development
Reason for Investigation	Planning condition
Planning authority	Leicester City Council
Site Co ordinates	SK461850 306050
Start/end dates of field work	9th and 13 th April 2015
Archive Recipient	Leicester City Museums Services
Study Area	
Associated project reference codes	

Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a). *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014b). *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. .

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Donald Clark and Adam Clapton for ULAS. Patrick Clay managed the project.

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