



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
The Old Chapel,  
Main Street,  
Burton Overy,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 67838 98084**

Donald Clark



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
The Old Chapel, Main Street,  
Burton Overy, Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 67838 98084**

**Planning Authority: Harborough Borough Council**

**Planning Reference: 17/01044/FUL**

**Client: Trevor and Lilian Bent**

**Author: Donald Clark**

Checked by

Signed .....
Date: ...16 January 2018.....
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# **An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Chapel, Main Street, Burton Overy, Leicestershire**

## **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching on land at The Old Chapel, Main Street, Burton Overy, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 67838 98084) prior to a proposed residential development. The archaeological fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the planning authority. This document presents details of the work carried out by ULAS on behalf of the client following consultation with Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the planning authority. The Senior Planning Archaeologist required two trenches to be excavated within the proposed development area. These trenches produced no archaeological deposits and were photographed, measured and then backfilled. A record of the archaeological evaluation will be transferred to the Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession No. X.A3.2018.*

## **Introduction**

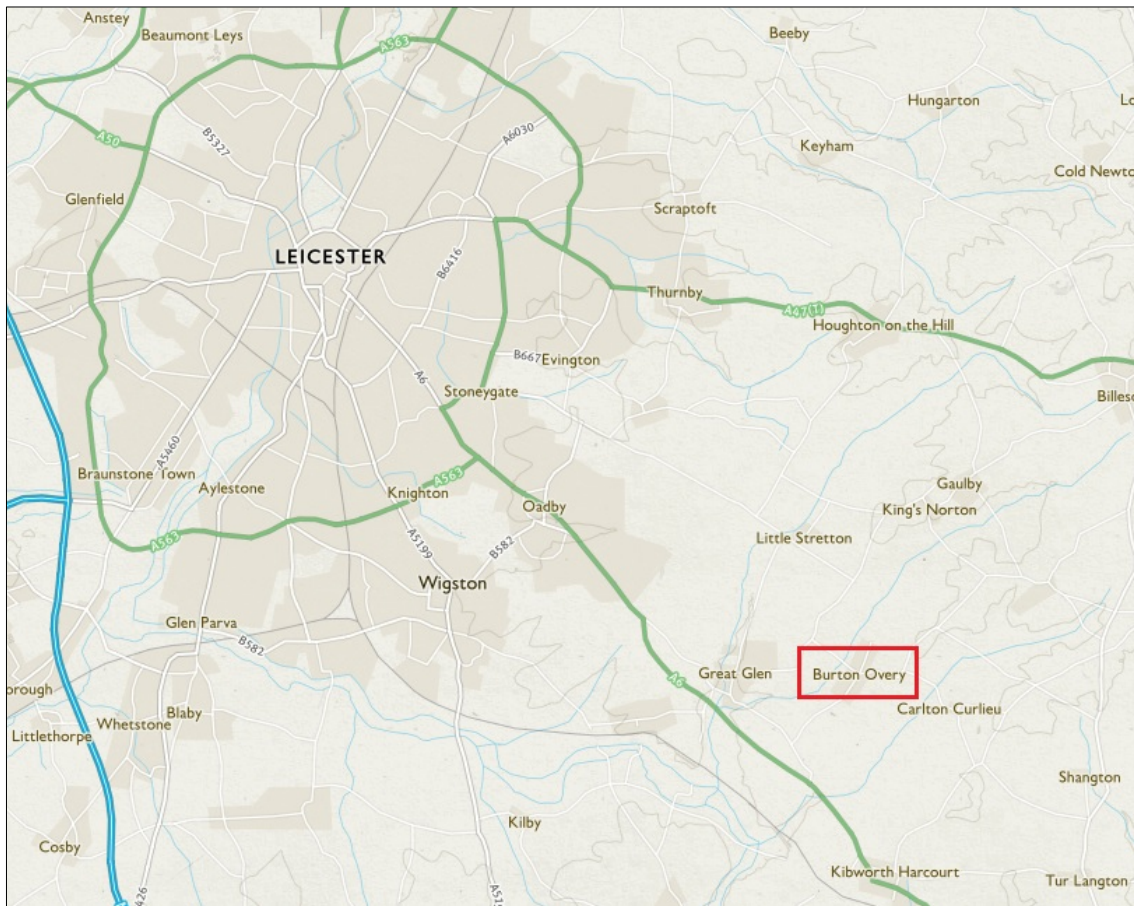
An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on the 9th January 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Trevor and Lilian Bent on land at The Old Chapel, Main Street, Burton Overy, Leicestershire. A planning application had been submitted for the ‘Demolition of an existing dwelling (Oaks View); erection of a dwelling with a new vehicular access; and erection of a garage and garden room for The Old Chapel’. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Buckley 2018) had been produced by ULAS for the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as planning advisor to Harborough Borough Council, the planning authority in this case. It provided details of the aims, objectives and methodologies to be adopted during the course of the work. The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of any archaeological remains which might be present in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

## **Site location, Topography and Geology**

Burton Overy is a small village situated 9 miles to the south east of Leicester and the site lies centrally within the village at approximately 125m AOD.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as bands of mudstone, specifically of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period and overlain with superficial Diamicton (Oadby Member) associated with Ice Age environments.



*Figure 1: Location of Burton Overy within Leicestershire*

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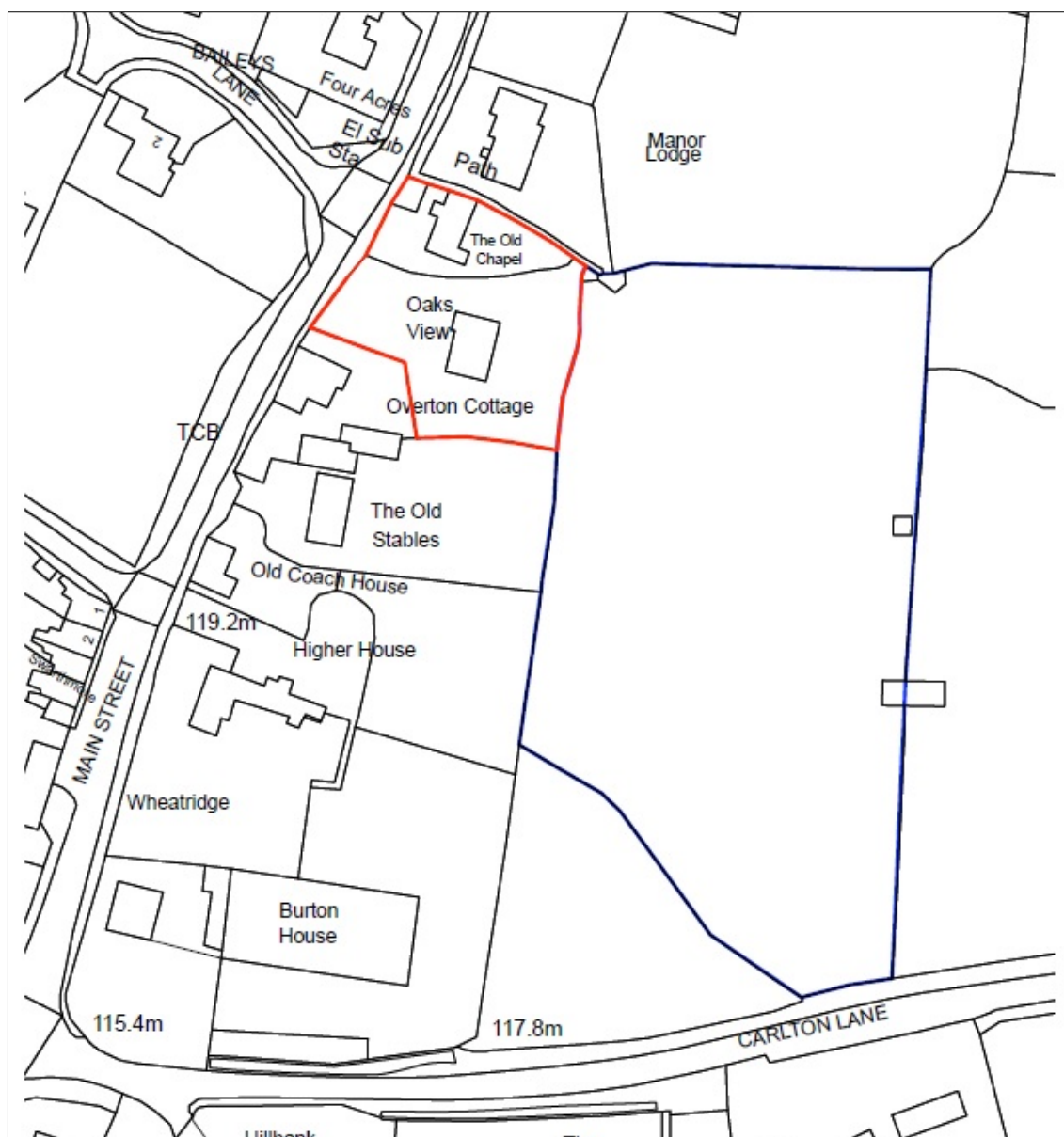


Figure 2: Location of site (in red) within Burton Overy (supplied by client)

### Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is inside the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Burton Overy (MLE9035), on the street frontage, and within the designated Conservation Area (DLE598). The plot is adjacent to Overton Cottage, a designated Grade II listed building dating to the 17th century (MLE10740), with Higher House, also listed Grade II and dating to the 17th century located just to the south. Well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks are recorded just to the east of the site (DLE7771). The Ordnance Survey drawings of 1821 and the First Edition map of 1887 suggests there has been little disturbance on this site. Consequently, there is a likelihood that any buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

‘The villages of Leicestershire and the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. Buried archaeological evidence, constituting one or more as yet unidentified heritage asset(s) (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2), spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past can be expected within the development area. Consequently, there is a likelihood that any buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.’

The Old Chapel is now a private residence but had been built as a Congregational Chapel in 1855 and is described in British History online as ‘a red brick building with stone dressings, having a central porch flanked by Gothic windows with interlacing tracery. It stands in a small graveyard.’

### **Methodology**

- Prior to the machining of the trenches general photographs of the site area were taken. A total of two 1.6m wide trenches, one 12.80m in length and the other 5.60m in length, were excavated and examined. Both these trenches were positioned within the proposed development area. The site plan shows the location of the trenches (Fig.3)
- Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.
- The trenches were excavated down to the natural undisturbed ground. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation *in situ* or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.
- An overall site plan will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

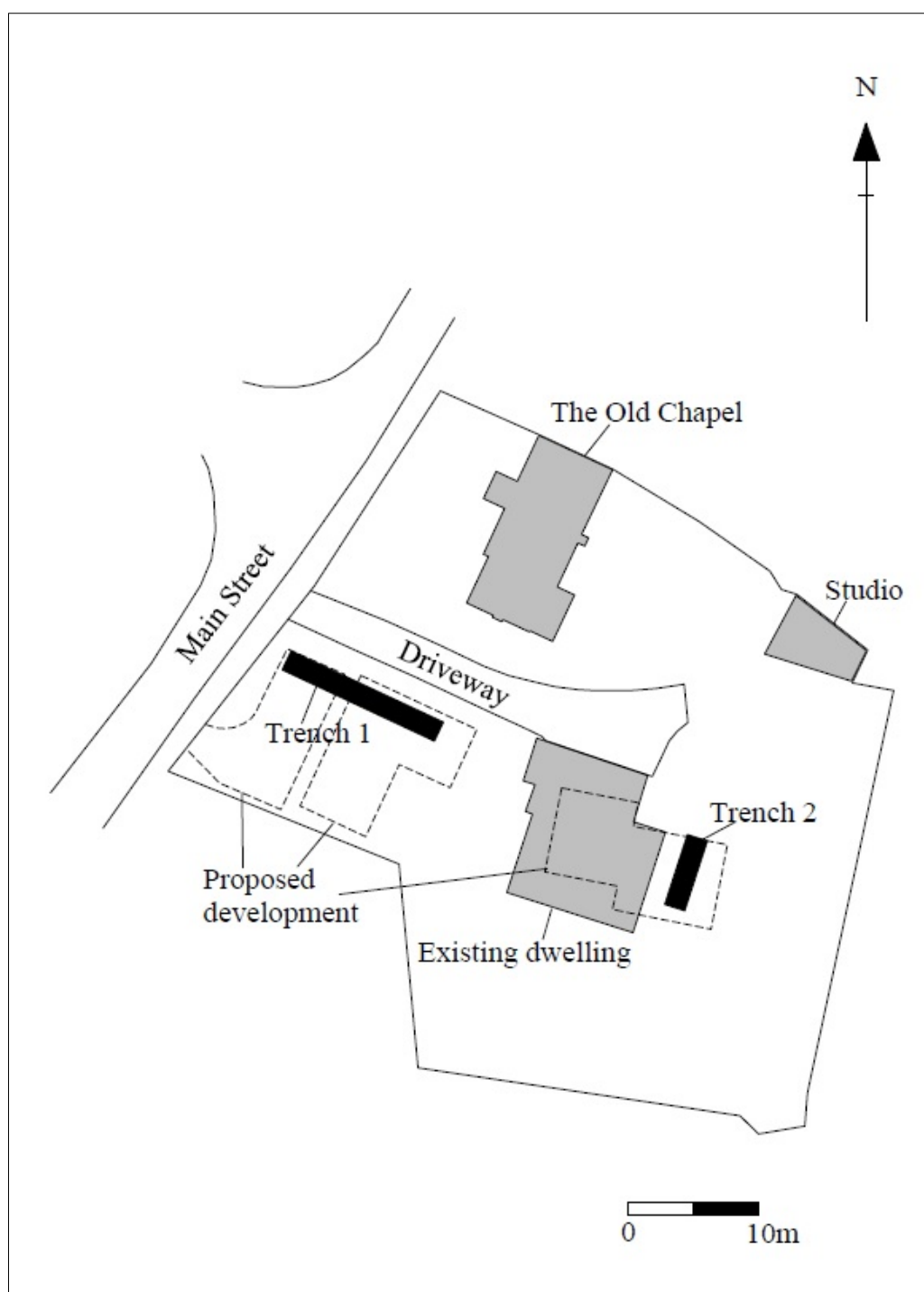


Figure 3: Site plan with position of evaluation trenches, in black; existing buildings shaded in grey; proposed development as dashed line

## Results

The two evaluation trenches were excavated to the natural undisturbed ground and varied in depth from 0.17m to 0.43m. The natural ground was light grey yellow clay with occasional natural stone and no sign of plough scarring or furrow was seen within the investigated areas.

### Trench 1



Trench 1 was situated in the front lawn of the property and orientated north west-south east. It measured 12.80m long and 1.60m wide. The topsoil, a dark grey brown silty sand, ranged from 0.13m to 0.17m in depth and this overlay the natural clay. The base of the trench ranged from 0.17m to 0.22m, cutting slightly into the natural clay. There was no subsoil and it is likely that the area of lawn had been landscaped at some point with the topsoil being imported. The broken remains of a ceramic field drain were visible running across the trench at approximately the midway point. There were no archaeological deposits.



*Figure 4: Trench 1 looking north west*

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was situated at the back of the existing property and orientated north-south. It measured 5.60m long and 1.60m wide. The topsoil, a homogenous dark yellow-grey silty clay, ranged from 0.38m to 0.39m in depth and this overlay the natural clay. The base of the trench was at 0.43m, cutting slightly into the natural clay. There were no archaeological deposits.



*Figure 5: Trench 2 looking north*

## Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or finds were present within the two trenches excavated during the evaluation. It may therefore be concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact upon any buried archaeological remains.

## Publication

ULAS supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

## Oasis

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-305849
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation at The Old Chapel, Main Street, Burton Overy, Leicestershire.
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	10-01-2018
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Not known
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation trenching
	<b>Site Status</b>	None
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Residential dwelling
<b>Monument</b>	None	

	<b>Type/Period</b>			
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None /None		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Unknown		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	17/01044/FUL		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	The Old Chapel, Main Street, Burton Overy, Leicestershire LE8 9DL		
	<b>Study Area</b>	0.186 hectares		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 67838 98084		
	<b>Height OD</b>	125m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Clients Trevor and Lilian Bent		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Richard Buckley		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	D. Clark		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Clients		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	NA	Leicestershire Museums	Leicestershire Museums
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>		X.A3.2018	X.A3.2018
	<b>Contents</b>		Photos	Records Field Notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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