

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Leicestershire Police Force HQ,
St. Johns, Enderby, LE19 2BX**

NGR: SK 4553 2995

James Earley




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(SK 4553 2995)**

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for

Leicestershire Police

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Leicestershire Police at Leicestershire Police Force HQ, St. Johns, Enderby, LE19 2BX between the 15th of August and 17th of September 2018. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the groundworks involving the excavation and levelling associated with the construction of a property and archive store. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under Accession Number X.A97.2018.

Introduction

This report presents the results an archaeological watching brief carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Leicestershire Police Force HQ, on behalf of Leicestershire Police during groundworks related to the construction of a property and archive store. This document presents the results of the scheme of archaeological work in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

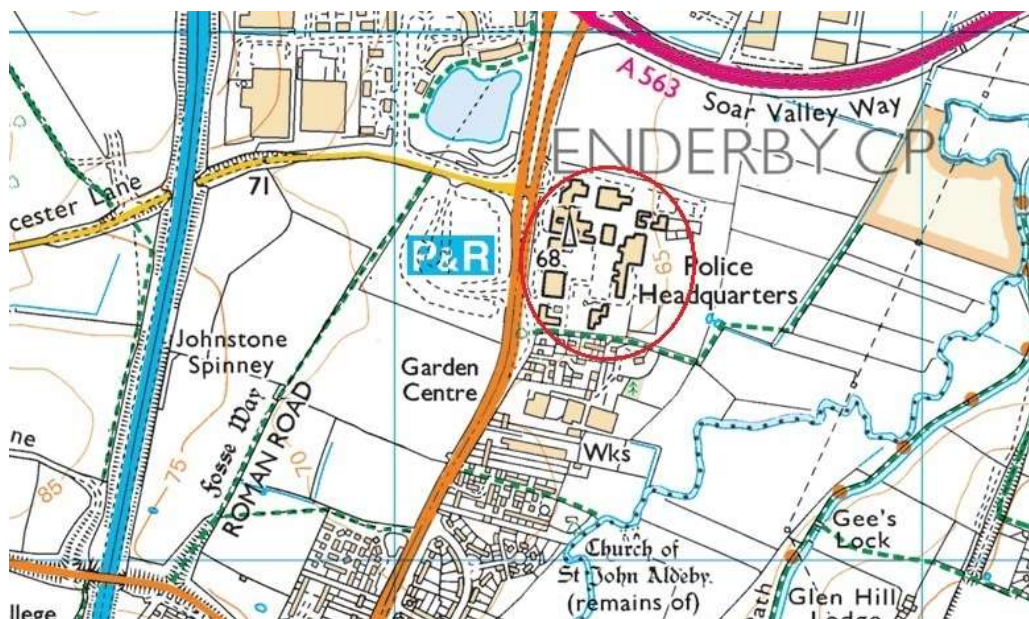


Figure 1. Site Location

Location and Geology

The site lies on the B4114 in Enderby, just off the M1 motorway at junction 21 and close to the Fosse Park shopping centre (Fig. 1). Enderby is a small town and civil parish in the Blaby District of Leicestershire, around 6 miles south-west of Leicester City Centre in Leicestershire.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology consists of Edwalton Member mudstone.



Figure 2. Proposed development area (Circled in Red)

Historical and Archaeological Background

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

An Iron Age site was recorded during work in 1993-1994 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). There was therefore a likelihood that similar archaeological remains could be present and could be disturbed by the proposed groundworks, including topsoil removal prior to the excavation and levelling associated with the construction of the property and archive store.

The site is situated only 300m west of the Fosse Way. The Fosse way was a Roman road that linked Exeter to Lincoln via Ilchester, Bath, Cirencester and Leicester. South of Leicester, the course runs along the current B4114.

Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to identify the presence of any archaeological deposits and, where present, to establish their nature, date, significance and state of preservation in order to determine the impact upon them from the proposed groundworks.

The objectives of the archaeological programme may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent, and date for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce and archive and report of any results



Figure 3. Proposed development area (provided by client)

Methodology

The programme of work comprised the stripping of topsoil and made ground with a JCB mechanical excavator. The machine stripping of the area 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.

A photographic record of the assessment area was made prior and during commencement of the ground works following the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Attendance* from Leicestershire County Council. This includes 'working shots' to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. The programme of attendance and recording adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

Results

The fieldwork, consisting of monitoring and observation of groundworks, was carried out to ensure that the works would not have an impact on any buried archaeological remains. The archaeological work comprising the observation of the ground reduction by mechanical excavator, was conducted under constant archaeological monitoring and recording.



Figures. 4 & 5. The removal of the topsoil and made ground with mechanical excavator

The archaeological work, revealed that the majority of the site was covered with c.1.50m of made ground sloping down to the East and West with a minimum depth of c. 0.50m. The topsoil overlying the made ground, had a maximum depth c.0.31m and a 0.18m minimum depth over an area 16m by 40m.

The made ground, comprising a layer of grey-brown sandy clay with frequent sub-rounded cobbles, was excavated. Inclusions included concrete, brick, glass and patches of macadam. High levels of modern disturbance from buried services, both live and redundant, were observed across the entire site with a concentration in the north and south parts of the site. The made ground was sealing the disturbed natural substrata consisting of reddish-brown silty clay and gravels. No archaeological deposits were observed.



Figures. 6 & 7. The removal of the made ground with mechanical excavator

Archive

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under Accession Number X.A97.2018.

The archive consists of:

- This report,
- 6 ULAS pro-forma Watching Brief Record sheets,
- One DVD of 104 digital photographs in .jpeg format, photographic index in an excel file and a pdf_A copy of this report.

Publication

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. An OASIS record will also be produced and this report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service website.

Acknowledgements

The work was project managed by Richard Buckley. The site archaeologist was James Earley.

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Appendix: OASIS data entry

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universi1-328722		
	Project Name	Leicestershire Police Force HQ, St. Johns, Enderby		
	Start/end dates of field work	15-08-2018/17-09-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/Unknown		
	Project Type	Recording (Watching Brief)		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Waste Ground		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	Planning Condition		
	Position in the Planning Process	As Condition		
	Planning Ref.	17/1284/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Leicestershire Police HQ, St. Johns, Enderby, LE19 2BX		
	Study Area	c.640m ²		
	Site Coordinates	SK 4553 2995		
	Height OD	72m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	Leicestershire County Council		
	Project Design Originator	Dr Richard Buckley		
	Project Manager	Dr Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	James Earley		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Leicestershire Police		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		PHYSICAL	PAPER	DIGITAL
	Recipient		Leicestershire County Council Museums Service	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A.97.2018	X.A.97.2018
	Contents		Context Sheet Report	Digital photography Spreadsheet
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Leicestershire Police Force HQ, St. Johns, Enderby		
	Author	Earley, J		
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