

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Desford,
Leicestershire (SK 841 049).**

Ioannis S. Altsitzoglou

For S and S Contracting

P.A 06/01101/4

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:Date:

Name:

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adj., to 10 Main Street, Botcheston, Desford, Leicestershire.

Ioannis S. Altsitzoglou

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Desford, Leicestershire (SK481 049)

Ioannis S. Altsitzoglou

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Leicestershire in January 2007 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) as required by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following advice from the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council. The application lies in the historic core of the village of Botcheston and close to known Roman remains. During the watching brief, no archaeological features were observed. The groundworks consisted of foundation trenches for two dwellings. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number X.A19.2007.

1: Introduction

1.1: In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this document reports on archaeological attendance, for inspection and recording of groundworks, as required by the Planning Authority, undertaken on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with new residential development (P.A 06/01101/4). The development site is located on land at Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Desford parish, Leicestershire (SK 481 049; figs.1 and 2).

This work was carried out as part of a mitigation strategy for potential archaeological remains as required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

2: Archaeological Background

2.1 The application area lies within the historic core of the village of Botcheston (HER Ref MLE 2750). In addition Roman pottery (MLE 7926; SK 484 049) has been found in the vicinity while Roman coins, pottery and a well were also found nearby at Fish Farm (MLE 7928; SK 4818 0492). The development therefore is in an area with some potential for the presence of archaeological remains.

Known once as 'Bocharston' or 'Bocheston', the hamlet of Botcheston did not exist at the time of the Domesday survey. It was once in the parish of Ratby but from around 1936, Botcheston has been part of the parish of Desford. Seven miles north of Leicester, the hamlet contained 500 acres and only 37 people in 1846

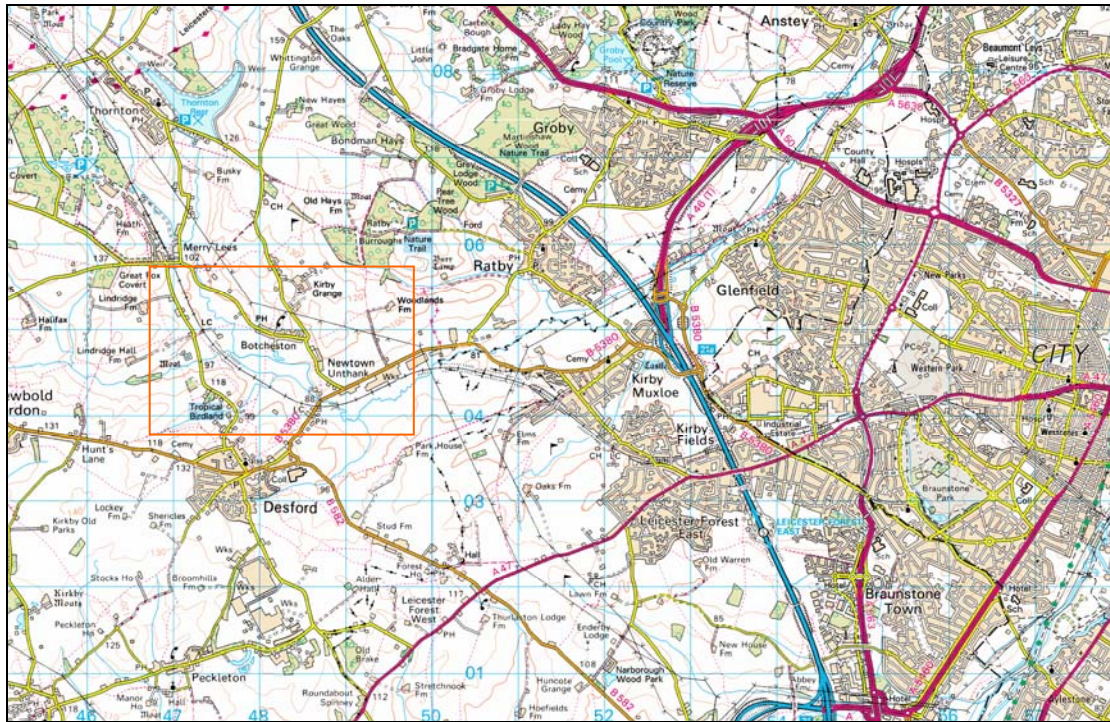


Figure 1: Location of site.

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3: Archaeological Objectives

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhering to their *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

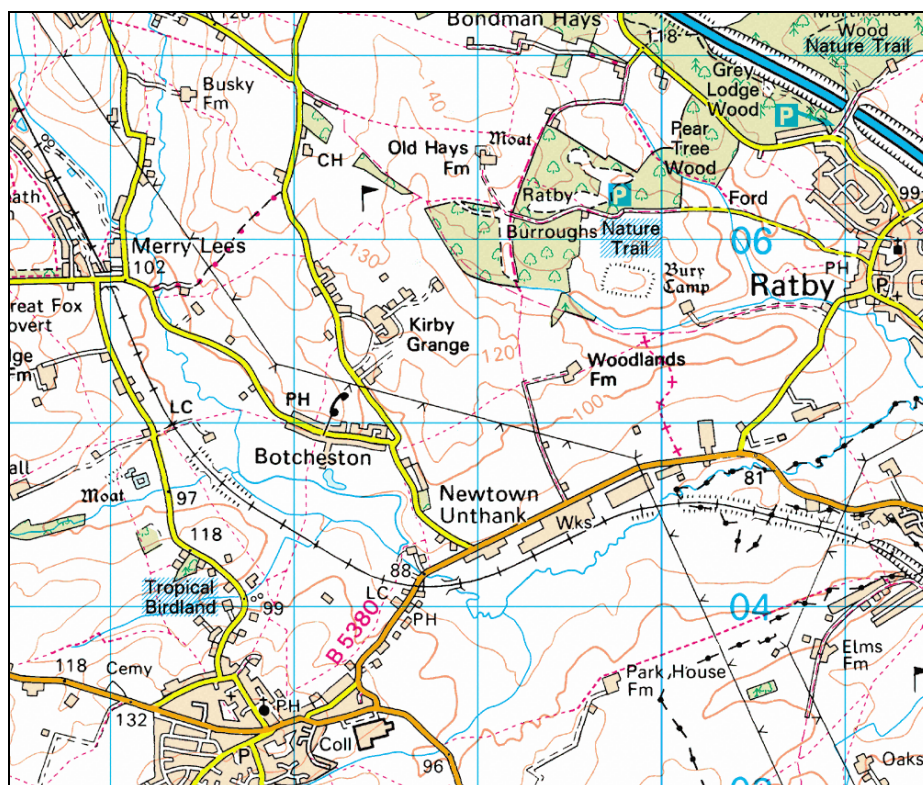


Figure 2: Location of site.

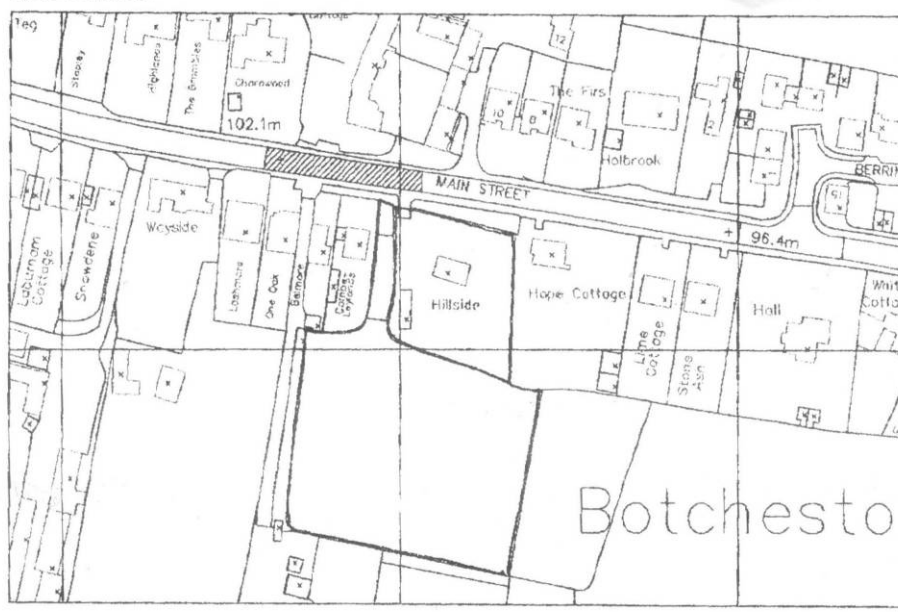
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4: Methods

The project involved the observation and identification of archaeological deposits by an experienced professional archaeologist concerning the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits were found to be present, the archaeologist would record areas of archaeological interest.

The archaeologist co-operated at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

Figure 1: Site Plan



5: Results

The land on which the development is taking place previously had a dwelling which was removed by the time the archaeological supervision of the site began. The foundation footings for the dwelling in plot 1 had already been excavated and concreted in. However, they were located within the area of the original dwelling and therefore the ground would have already been disturbed.

The location of the second dwelling lies adjacent and to the east of Plot 1 was under an extremely overgrown garden area. The topsoil had been considerably disturbed by root action, and was no more than c.0.2m thick.

No archaeological finds were revealed during a search of the spoil.



Figure 4: The proposed development.
Plan supplied by the client.

6: Conclusions

No archaeological deposits were revealed during the watching brief. The topsoil overlying the Mercia Mudstone group substratum was very thin and may have been stripped in the past. The substratum was very clear and had deposits been present they would have been visible. The area therefore is likely to be outside the location of the Roman activity and the core of the medieval hamlet.

7: Archive

The site archive (X.A19.2007), consisting of paper records, black and white and digital colour photographs will be housed with the, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department.

8: Publication

A version of the summary (see above) will appear in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

9: Acknowledgements

The work was undertaken by Ioannis S. Altsitzoglou on behalf of S & S Contracting Ltd. The project was managed by Dr. Patrick Clay.

Ioannis S. Altsitzoglou,
U.L.A.S.,
University of Leicester,

University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH.

T: 0116 252 2848

F: 0116 252 2614

Email: isa4@le.ac.uk

www.le.ac.uk/ulas

31.01.07



Fig 5 General view of Plot 1, looking south-west.



Fig 6 Plot 2 layout, looking south.



Fig 7 Plot 2 foundation trench looking east.



Fig 8 Plot 2 groundwork, looking south.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Desford, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 481 049

Client: S & S Contracting

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01101/4

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance, for inspection and recording of ground works, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with the construction of student accommodation. The development site is located on land at Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Leicestershire (SK 481 049; figs.1 and 2). It consists of an area of c.0.4 ha.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Figure 1: Site Plan

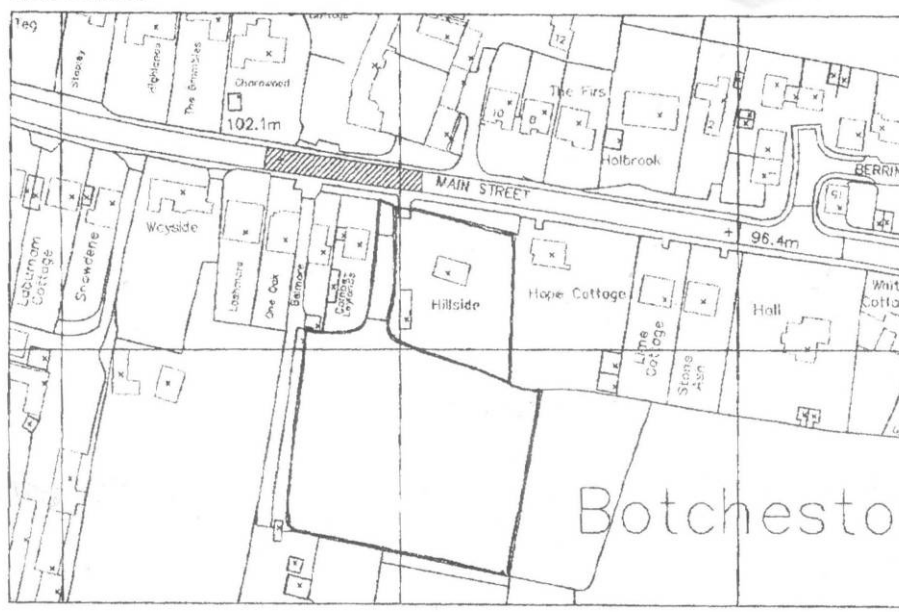


Fig 1 Area of proposed development

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involves observation of site strip and foundation and service trench excavations to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment record (HER) shows that the application lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic core of the village (MLE2750). Roman remains are also known from the vicinity (MLE7926;7928) In view of this the planning authority has asked for a watching brief during development.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.



Fig 2 Proposed development plots

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the observation of overburden and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Charnwood Borough Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to start on 8.8.2006. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to observe the works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft

Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

11. Bibliography

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

Patrick Clay
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

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Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston, Desford, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 481 049

Client: S & S Contracting

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 06/01101/4

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Wile's disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Patrick Clay
25.01.2006