

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at
The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton,
Leicestershire, (SK 468 009)**

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Planning Application No. 06/00533/4
For Mr G.M. Waterfield

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Site Location and Geology	1
4	Historical and Archaeological Background	1
5	Previous Work and Archaeological Survey	3
6	Methodology	3
7	Results	4
8	Conclusion	4
7	Archive	4
9	Acknowledgements	5
9	Bibliography	5
10	Appendix 1 Design specification	6

Figures

Fig.1	Site Location. Scale 1:50000	2
Fig.2	Working Shot of Ground Works (looking NW)	3
Fig.3	Working Shot showing Foundation Trench (Looking North)	4

An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire, (SK 468 009)

Greg Jones

1 Summary

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009) on the 4th August 2006. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr Greg Waterfield in advance of the erection of a detached double garage with games room. The work involved observing foundation trenches for any signs of archaeological activity. The results of this investigation were negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A97.2006.

2. Introduction

2.1 This document covers an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009). The archaeological watching brief was being undertaken on behalf of Mr G. Waterfield by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Mr Waterfield proposes to erect a double garage with games room on land at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009). The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological watching brief of the site area be carried out during ground works.

2.3 The archaeological investigation is in accordance with PPG16 'Archaeology and Planning'. The purpose of the work is to identify and record archaeological deposits during development.

3 Site Location and Geology

3.1 The development area is located off Manor Lane, Peckleton, at NGR SK 4675 0084, adjacent to the Old Mill, with Manor Lane to east and the stream and mill leat to the north (Figure 1). The site covers an area of c. 44 sq. m.

3.2 The development site overlies Triassic mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (Geological Survey of Great Britain (Coalville), Sheet 155), with alluvium to the east. The site falls gently to the south-east, at or around c. 100m aOD.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application area lies in a rich archaeological landscape. In the immediate vicinity are remains dating from the Roman to the post-medieval period, with earlier remains identified in the broader landscape.

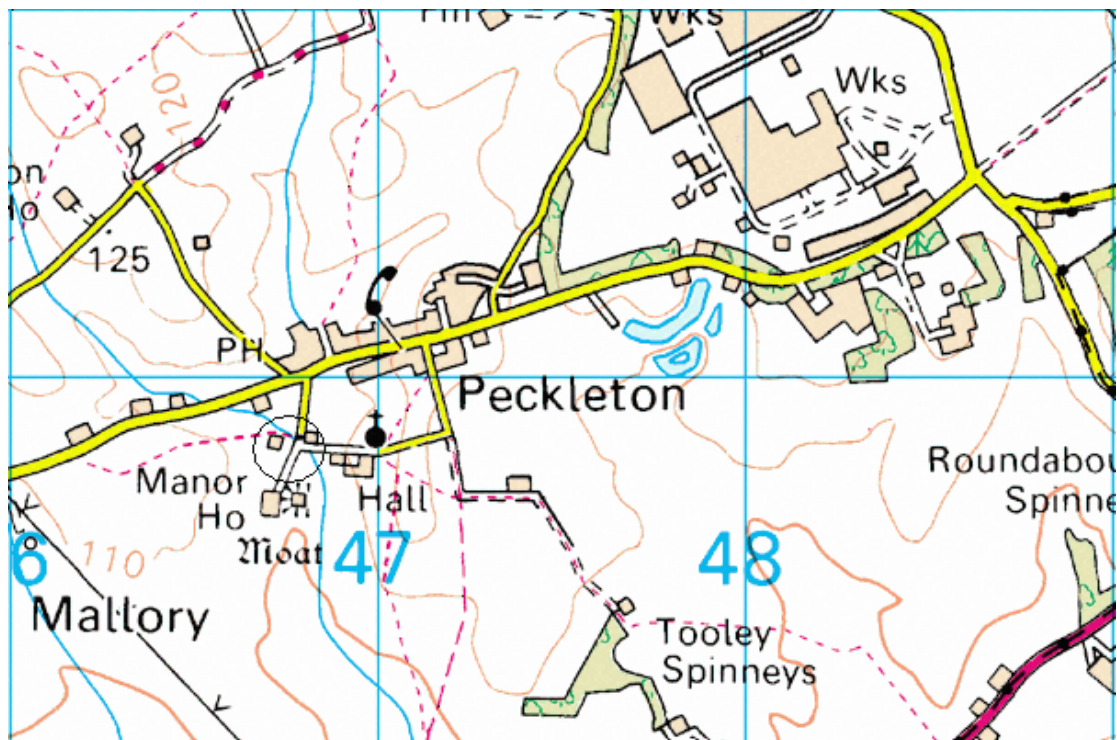


Figure 1: Site location.

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To the north of the application area, crop marks show the probable route of the Roman Road from Leicester to Mancetter (HER Ref: MLE 3019) and a Roman ear-ring has been found to the south-east of the parish Church (MLE 9841).

4.2 In addition to the potential for remains of the Roman period to be disturbed by the proposed development, the application lies in the historic settlement core of Peckleton (MLE 3062). Village earthworks (MLE 3008 & 3009) survive to the west and north-east of the Manor (MLE 3041) and the medieval village fishpond can still be discerned to the north-east of the application area (MLE 3055). The Church of St. Martin, a Grade 1 listed building, dates to the 14th Century, with 16th Century alterations and 19th Century restoration (MLE 13072). The Manor House (MLE 3041), constructed in 1787, but likely to have earlier origins, is surrounded by a moat (MLE 3042) and an undated mound lies in the grounds (MLE 3010). The Manor House and its gate piers are Grade II listed due to their historical and architectural significance (DLE 3114 & 3115).

4.3 The application site itself lies in an area of archaeological interest, concerning the post-medieval period. The watermill, still operating in the 19th Century and visible in the 1970s, lies just to the north-east of the proposed garage and games room (MLE 3020). The proposed development covers c.44 square metres of land and would have a destructive impact upon any archaeological remains that may be present. As such, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.

5 Previous Work and Archaeological Survey

5.1 No known previous archaeological work has been carried out within the application area.

6 Methodology

6.1 The archaeological watching brief involved archaeological observation of the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed detached double garage and games room.

6.2 Foundation trenches were excavated using a JCB. Following their excavation, all foundation trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

6.3 The work followed the *Design specification for an archaeological watching brief (07/501 ULAS)*, the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs. The Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.



Figure 2 Working Shot of Ground Works (Looking NW)

7 Results

- 7.1 The topsoil consisted of a very dark grey loam, with minor root disturbance.
- 7.2 The subsoil consisted of dark brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles, and the natural substratum consisted of Mercia Mudstone.
- 7.3 The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.
- 7.4 No significant archaeological finds or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.



Figure 3 Working Shot Showing Foundation Trench (Looking North)

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

9 Archive

- 9.1 The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services Section, accession number X.A97.2006. It includes a Watching Brief recording form and digital photographs.

10 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the client, Mr Greg Waterfield for his assistance and co-operation. Patrick Clay who managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

11 Bibliography

Clarke, R., 2006 *Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation) at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009). Planning Reference 06/00533/FUL*

Clay, P., 2006 *Design Specification for archaeological work The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009) ULAS Ref: 07/501*

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12 Appendix Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton,

Leicestershire (SK 468 009)

Planning Application: 06/00533/4

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, including control and supervision 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 a planning application for the construction of a double garage with games room at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (SK 468 009) for Mr G M Waterfield.

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)*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological work involves the investigation (strip, plan and excavation) during the site strip and foundation and service trench excavations to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample excavation) at The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (LCC 26.07.2006* hereinafter 'The Brief').

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The 'brief' indicates that the area is in a rich archaeological landscape close to Roman sites and within the historic village core (6.1). The post-medieval watermill demolished in the 1970's lies immediately to the north of the proposed garage and games room.

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.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the observation of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above (Brief 9.3). 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, Heritage Services 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 Harborough District 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 ('Brief' 9.9). 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 commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks, currently scheduled for 14.8.2006. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all 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)

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2.8.2006

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

*The Old Mill, Manor Lane, Peckleton,
Leicestershire (SK 468 009)
Planning Application: 06/00533/4*

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 Weils 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
2.8.2006