



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance and Recording
During Groundworks at 36 St James Road,
Leicester, LE2 7HR**

NGR: SK 60059 03455

Adam Clapton



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**Archaeological Attendance and Recording During Groundworks at
36 St James Road
Leicester, LE2 7HR
(SK 60059 03455)
Planning Ref: 20162302**

Adam Clapton

for

Mohamed Moti

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Adam Clapton

Summary

Archaeological attendance and recording was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mohamed Moti at 36 St James Road, Leicester, LE2 7HR on March 20th 2019. The work consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with construction of a new residential dwelling. Despite the potential for archaeological deposits on site, no archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

The site archive will be held by Leicester Art and Museums Service under Accession Number Y.A6.2019.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks (hereafter referred to as a Watching Brief) at 36 St James Road, Leicester LE2 7HR. The work at 36 St James Road was undertaken in July 2018 and March 2019 and follows the strategy of work set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2018).

The work is related to groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a new residential dwelling (Planning Application 20162302). The site is currently a garden area formerly belonging to 36 St James Road and the Planning Archaeologist as an advisor to Leicester City Council has requested mitigation in the form of archaeological attendance and recording to ensure that any archaeological remains are investigated and recorded.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The assessment area lies to the south east of Leicester City centre. It is bounded by residential development to the north, south, east and west. St James Road runs to the east of the assessment area (Figures 1-4). The site slopes gently from west to east and lies at a height between 89-91m aOD.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology consists of Wilmcote Limestone Member mudstone and limestone overlain by Thrussington Member Diamicton.

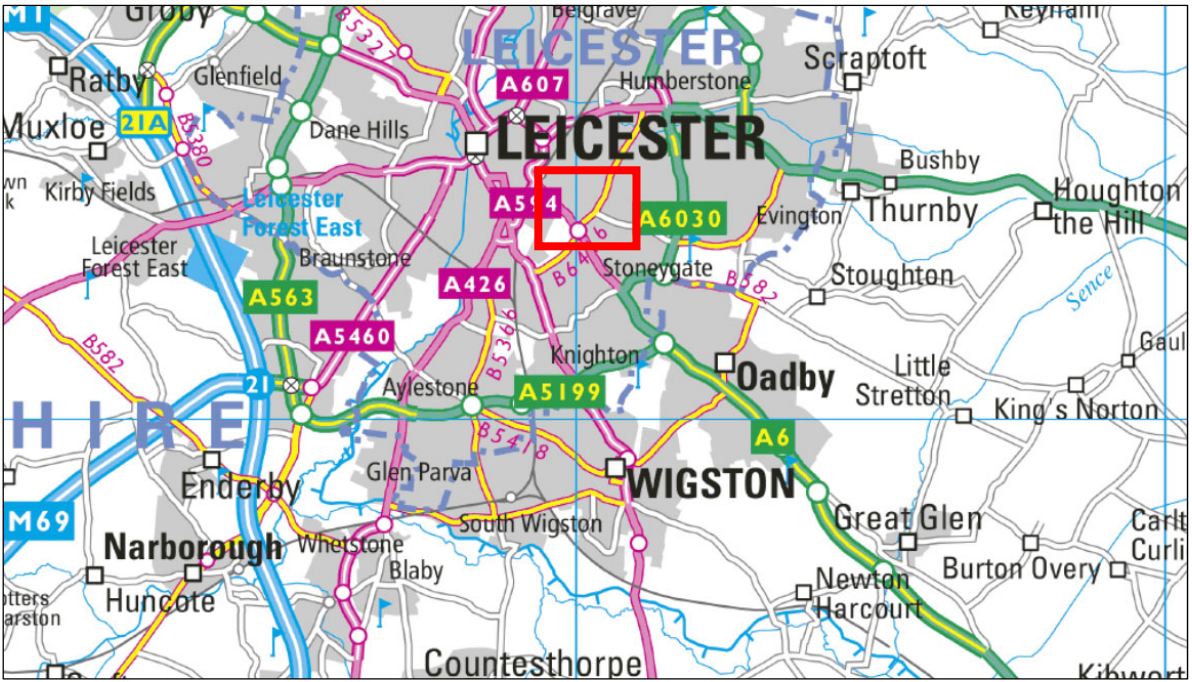


Figure 1: Site Location.

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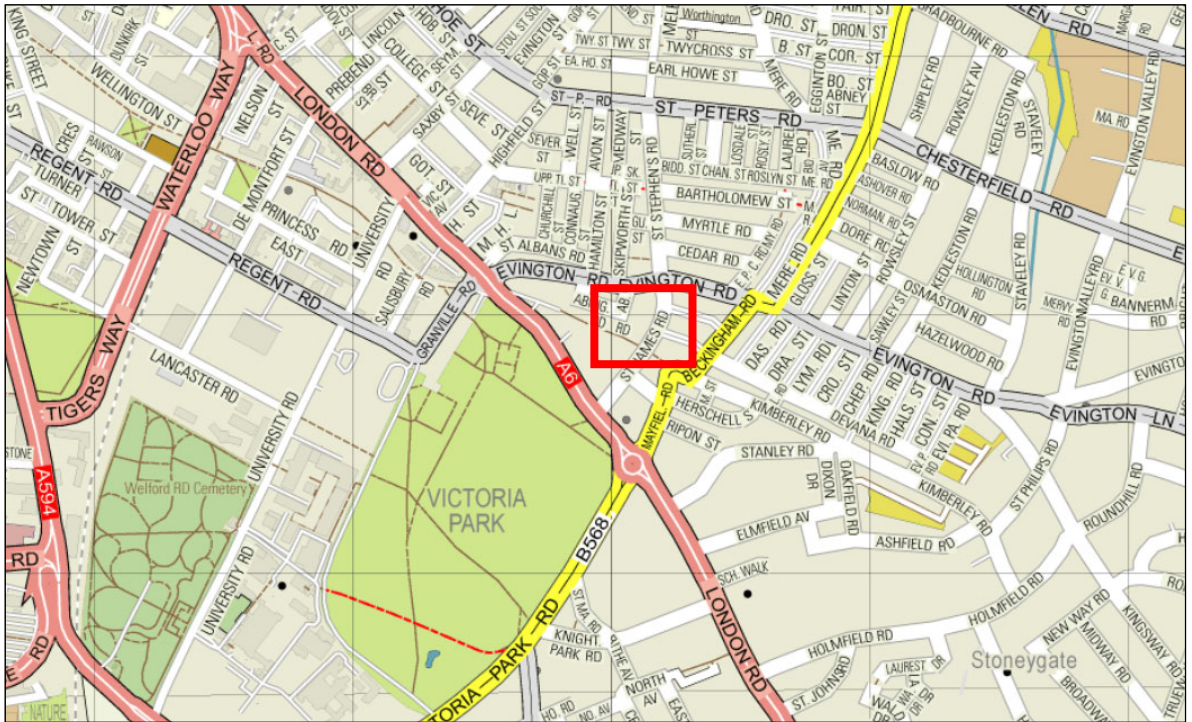


Figure 2: Site Location within Leicester.

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Figure 3: Assessment area.

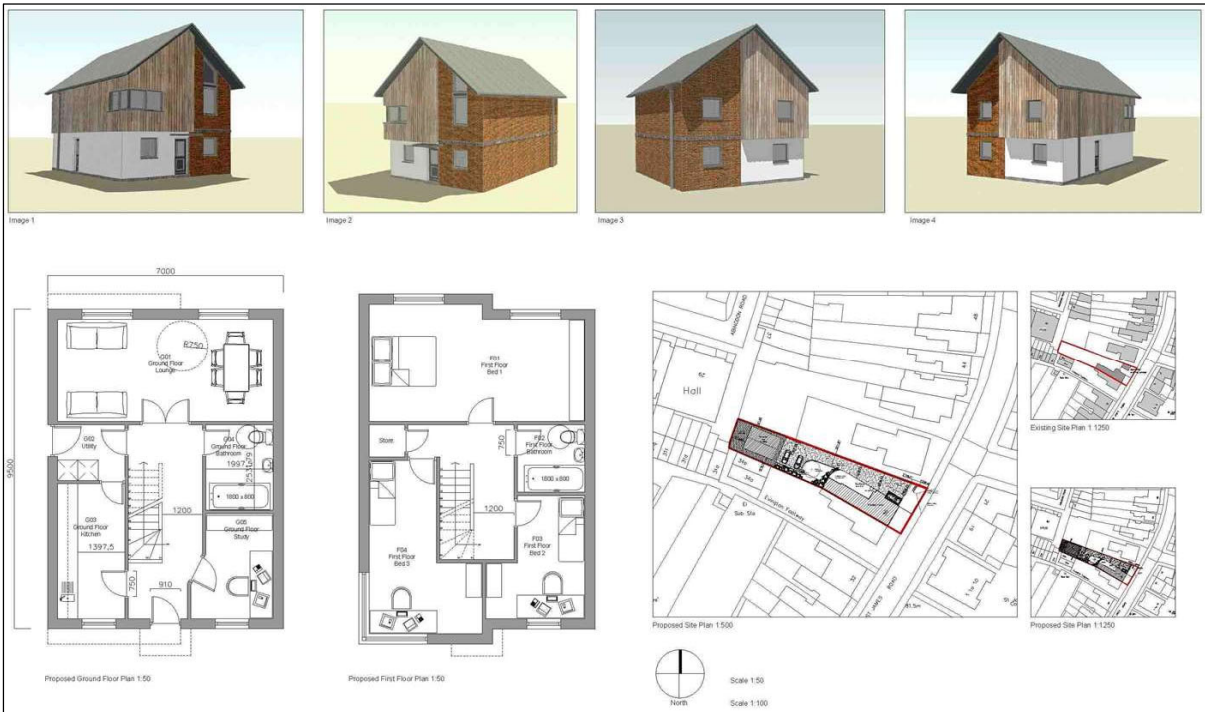


Figure 4: Proposed development (supplied by client).

Archaeological and Historical background

The proposed development site lies south-west of Roman and medieval Leicester, close to the projected line of Gartree Road, the Roman road from Leicester to Colchester, which follows the alignment of New Walk and Evington footpath, the latter just a few metres to the south west of the site. Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are postulated nearby at Kimberley Road (**MLC1004**) and on London Road near the junction with Evington Road (**MLC300**). The site therefore has some potential for archaeology of the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods in particular.

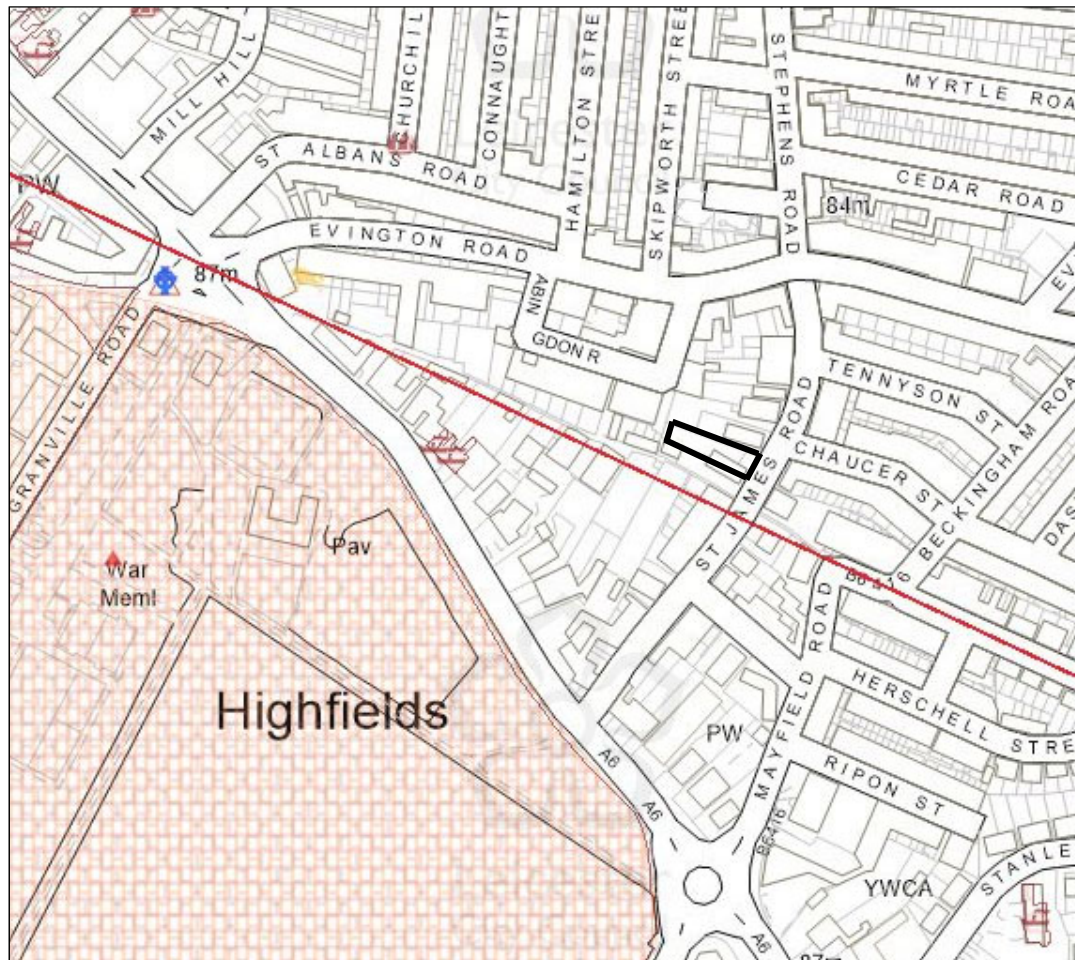


Figure 5: The projected line of Gartree Road (red) with the assessment area (black).

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
- To deliver archaeological supervision of works and on site guidance to contractors with the purpose of minimising risk of accidental damage and disturbance to any archaeological remains or deposits encountered.

Research Objectives

The presence of Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeology in the area suggested a potential for further features of this date. It is therefore possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The following specific research agenda topics have been identified as relevant to this work (knight *et al* 2012):

Roman

5.4 Rural settlement patterns and landscapes

1. How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
2. How and why did settlement forms and building traditions vary within the region and over time?
3. How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?
4. How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
5. What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
6. Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products?

5.5 The agricultural economy

1. How is the upland-lowland divide manifested in the regional agricultural economy and other aspects of the archaeological record?
2. How did integration into the Roman Empire impact upon the agrarian economy, including the introduction of new crops, herbs and fruits?
3. What is the evidence for the diet of people of high and low status in urban and rural settlements, especially those close to military sites?
4. Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?
5. Can we define more precisely the networks developed for the trade and exchange of agricultural

5.7 Roads and waterways

1. Can the chronology of road construction and links between road building and campaigns of conquest be clarified?
2. How were roads, rivers and artificial waterways integrated?
3. To what extent may communication routes have been influenced by Late Iron Age settlement patterns and routes of movement?
4. How may roads and waterways have impacted upon established communities and how may roads have influenced urban morphology?
produce and fish?

Early Medieval

6.1 Demography and the identification of political and social groups

1. What may be deduced about changes in diet, mortality and other demographic variables from osteological studies of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, and how might this have varied spatially and over time?
2. What was the relationship between indigenous communities and Germanic populations, and how may this have varied spatially and over time?
3. How may studies of sites yielding late Roman metalwork elucidate further the relationship between indigenous and Germanic populations?
4. How far may studies of dress be advanced by analyses of inhumations, and how may dress accessories reflect social or political groupings?
5. How can we refine our understanding of the chronology and process of Scandinavian immigration during the ninth and tenth centuries?
6. What may we deduce from Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian sculpture about ethnic and religious affiliations?
7. Can we identify social/political boundaries (e.g. surviving linear earthworks and natural barriers) and/or estate centres?

6.3 Roads and rivers: transport routes and cultural boundaries

1. To what extent were Roman roads used and maintained from the fifth century, and may some have acted as social or political boundaries?
2. Can we identify re-used or newly developed unmetalled routeways (e.g. by the identification of metalled fords or bridges)?
3. What roles may rivers have played as corridors for the movement of goods and people, and how might these have varied over time?
4. To what extent may rivers such as the Trent or Witham have served as major political and social boundaries during the Anglo-Saxon period?

6.4 Rural settlement patterns

1. What impact may Germanic and Scandinavian immigration have had upon established rural settlement patterns, and how may place-name evidence contribute to studies of settlement evolution?
2. Can we elucidate the pattern of early medieval settlement north and west of the Trent?
3. Can spatial and temporal variations in the morphology, functions and status of settlements be defined more precisely?
4. What factors may underlie the progression from dispersed to nucleated settlement and the growth of settlement hierarchies?
5. May settlement have retreated from areas of heavier soils in some areas (e.g. Leicestershire and Northamptonshire)?

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

Methodology

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014b) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (2014a). The work involved the monitoring of excavations of foundation trenches for a new residential dwelling on site in order to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. An initial visit was made in July 2018, but work on site was curtailed as there were still some unresolved planning matters. Subsequently the work resumed on March 20th 2019 when the site was attended by the author.

The work was carried out using a 4 ton 360 rubber tracked machine fitted with a 0.3m and 0.7m flat bladed bucket.

A photographic record of the assessment area was made prior and during commencement of the ground works in accordance with the approved WSI. This includes 'working shots' to illustrate the nature of the work.

Results

On arrival much of the site had been cleared of above ground vegetation and structures, including trees, shrubs and a brick-built garage (Figure 6). The westernmost foundation trenches had already been excavated, whilst the remaining foundations were subsequently excavated and monitored under archaeological supervision (Figures 7-10). Topsoil at the western end of the site measured 0.3m in depth consisting of a dark brownish-grey silty clay with common modern inclusions including brick, concrete, glass and plastic. Topsoil depths reduced heading east where some skimming of soils had previously occurred. Underlying this a light orange-brown silty clay subsoil was recorded measuring 0.1m-0.2m in depth. This also reduced in depth heading east. The natural substratum was reached at depths of between 0.3m-0.5m and consisted of a pinkish-red clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions. Foundation trenches measured 0.35m-0.75m in width and were excavated to a depth of 1.3m-2m.

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits to be present, no archaeological deposits or features were observed during the works.



Figure 6: The site on arrival looking east.



Figure 7: Section of the westernmost foundation trench looking west (1m scale).



Figure 8: Foundation trenches looking north-east from south-west corner of the development (1m scale).



Figure 9: Internal foundation trenches looking north-northeast (1m scale).



Figure 10: Eastern foundation trenches under excavation looking east.

Archive and Publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicester City Museums Service with accession number Y.A6.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-0040)
- 2 Watching brief recording sheets
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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.

A summary of the work will also been submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.

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Acknowledgments

The fieldwork was carried out by Adam Clapton and Mireya Gonzalez Rodriguez and managed for ULAS by Richard Buckley. ULAS would like to thank Mohamed Moti for his cooperation during the work.

OASIS data

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universil-346592		
	Project Name	36 St James Road, Leicester		
	Start/end dates of field work	20/03/2019, 20/03/2019		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Construction		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Residential		
	Monument Type/Period	none		
	Significant Finds/Period	none		
	Development Type	Urban Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	20162302		
	PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	36 St James Road, Leicester, LE2 5HR	
Study Area		0.024 hectares		
Site Coordinates		SK 60059 03455		
Height OD		89-91m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Leicester City Council		
	Project Design Originator	Richard Buckley		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Adam Clapton		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leicester City Museum Service	Leicester City Museum Service	Leicester City Museum Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	Y.A6.2019	Y.A6.2019	Y.A6.2019
	Contents	none	Photos Report	Paper records
	Type	Grey literature		

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