

**An Archaeological
Watching brief on land off
Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire
(SK 4310 3155).**

Matthew Hurford

<p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>SignedDate.....</p> <p>Name.....</p>
--

**For: Leicestershire County Council,
Property Services Resource Dept.**

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services
Report 2006/032**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds,
Leicestershire (SK 4310 3155).**

Contents

1. Summary	1
2. Introduction	1
3. Objectives	2
4. Methodology	2
5. Results	2
6. Conclusion	2
7. Bibliography	3
8. Acknowledgements	3

Appendix

1. Design specification for the archaeological work

Illustrations

1. Location of the proposed development area. Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 128 1:50000
2. Location of the proposed development area. Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 233 1:25000
3. Plot 4 in relation to the line of the Roman Road

All Ordnance Survey maps are reproduced by permission of her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO)

© Crown copyright

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds,
Leicestershire (SK 4310 3155).**

Matthew Hurford

1. Summary

An archaeological watching brief by control and supervision was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire (SK 4310 3155) during the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed new building.

The foundation trenches were located twenty metres to the north of a major Roman road, the 'Via Devana' that had been examined by a previous watching brief, evaluation and excavation (ULAS Report Nos. 1998-64, 2003-021 and 2005-058)

No earth-fast archaeological features were identified during the watching brief confirming that there was no ribbon development adjacent to the road during Roman and later periods and that post medieval industrial activity was confined to the east of the development.

The site archive will be held by the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number XA17 2006.

2. Introduction

The proposed area of residential development for J. F. Harrington and Sons Ltd is located northeast of Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds Leicestershire. The site is centred on SK 4310 3155 and consists of an area c. 0.4 hectares of rough pasture, lying at a height between 109-117m OD (figs.1 and 2). The underlying geology consists of Carboniferous Coal Measures.

Trial trenching in 2003 (ULAS Report No. 03/021) confirmed that the proposed development Plot 4 was located 20m to the north of the route of a major Roman road that connected Colchester with Chester, known as the 'Via Devana' (SMR SK 31NW AD). The road has also been encountered c.100m to the southeast (ULAS Report No 98/64). An excavation in 2005 revealed further continuation of the road and adjacent ditch with probable post medieval industrial activity located to the north (ULAS Report No. 2005/58). To the south of the area Late Iron Age and Roman remains have also been identified (SMR SK31NW.S).

As a result of this a pre-planning enquiry was made to Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services (LCCHS) in advance of the proposed housing development. LCCHS requested a watching brief to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The archaeological work designed to fulfil these planning conditions set by LCCHS are detailed in *Design Specification for Archaeological Work of Land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire (ULAS Report 05/589)* and follow Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30.

The watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on 27 January 2006.

3. Objectives

The objective of the archaeological work was:

- To ascertain the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

The archaeological work followed the programme set out in a Design Specification (ULAS Design Specification 05/589, See Appendix I).

A 360 mechanical digger with a 1.00m wide bucket was used to excavate the modern overburden and natural substratum in spits under archaeological supervision. All trenches were examined for archaeological deposits.

All layers and potential archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded.

5 Results

The watching brief revealed that the foundation trenches were located in an area that contained modern layers to a depth of *c.* 0.50m forming a car park beneath which was the underlying natural substratum that consisted of yellowish to orange brown clay with 15% blue clay lenses within it.

No archaeological deposits were encountered

6. Conclusions

Despite being in an area of archaeological interest the watching brief produced no evidence of archaeological activity confirming that there was no ribbon development adjacent to the road during the Roman or later periods. The absence of archaeological remains also demonstrates that the industrial activity encountered during the excavation is probably confined to the east of Plot 4.

7. Bibliography

Browning, J 1998 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bath Lane, Moira, Leicestershire (SK 312 154)* ULAS Report No. 1998/64

Hurford, M 2005 *An Archaeological Excavation on Land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire (SK 4310 3155)* ULAS Report 2005-058

Jones, S 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Bath Lane, Moira, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire (SK 4310 3155)* ULAS Report No. 2003/012

8. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

Matthew Hurford
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: mh152@le.ac.uk



Figure 1. Location of proposed development area.

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 128 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1980. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

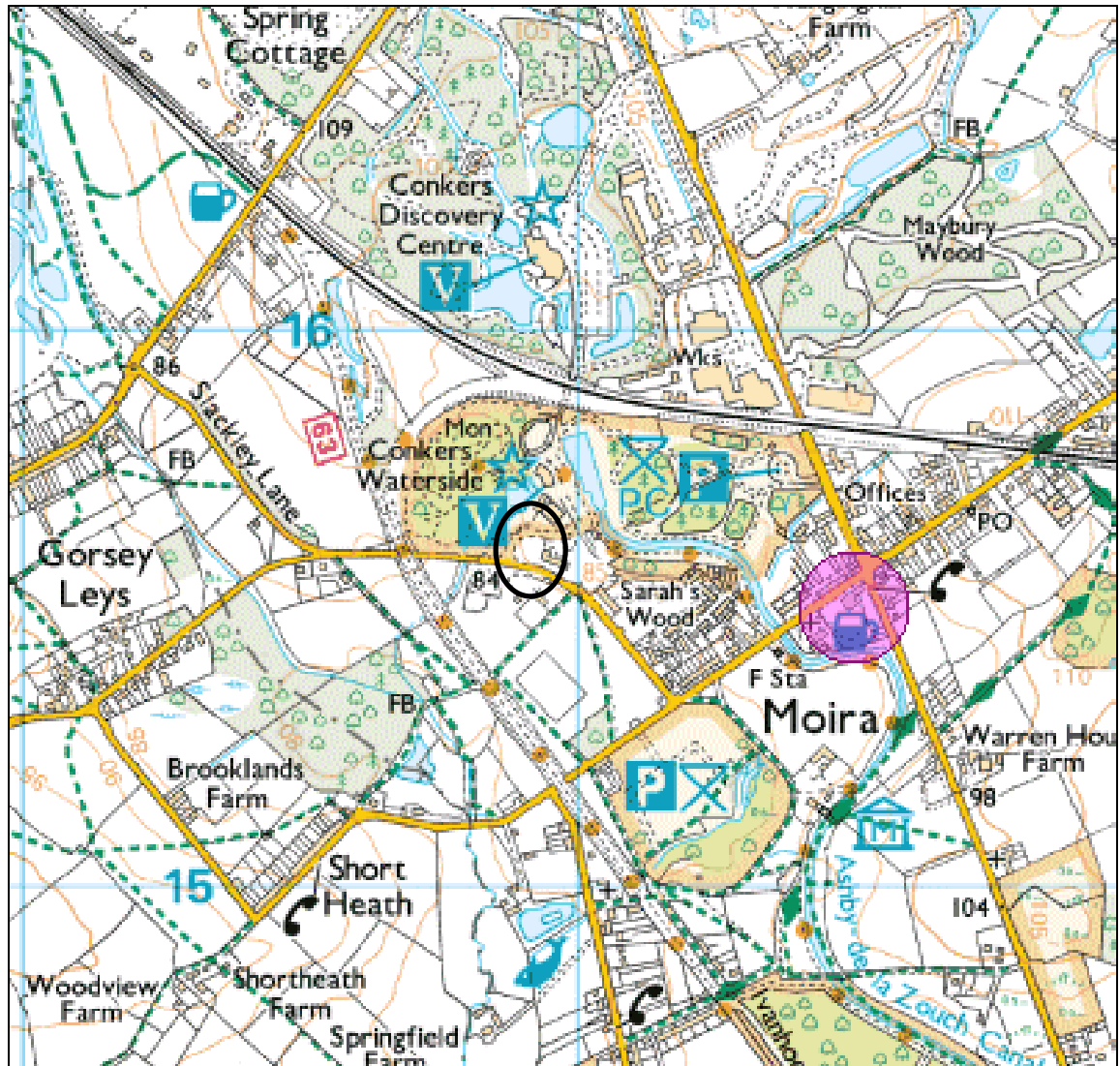


Figure 2. Location of proposed development area.

Reproduced from the Explorer OS map 233 1:25000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1980. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

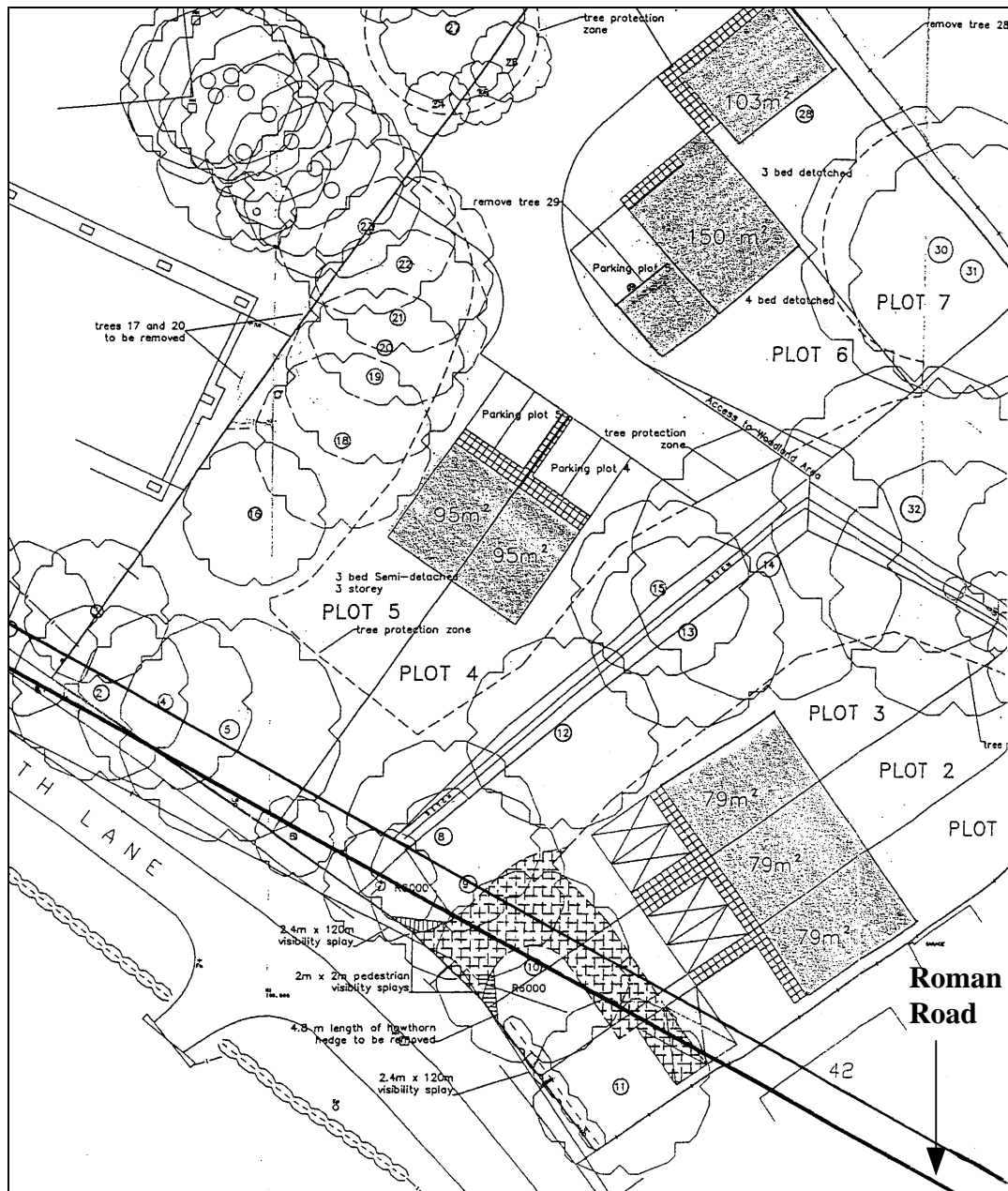


Figure 3. Plot 4 in relation to the line of the Roman Road.