

**A Photographic Survey of the Former Shepshed Hosiery Company Factory,
Sullington Road, Shepshed, Leicestershire (NGR SK 4795 1895).**

Gerwyn Richards

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services undertook a photographic survey of the former Shepshed Hosiery Factory Sullington Road, Shepshed, Leicestershire. The complex includes a range of typical midland industrial buildings dating from the late 19th to the late 20th century. The survey was commissioned by Corporate Architecture and Prime Life Ltd. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Corporate Architecture Ltd and Prime Life Ltd to undertake a photographic survey of the former Shepshed Hosiery Co, Sullington Road, Shepshed. Outline planning permission has been granted to demolish the existing buildings and erect a care home on the site; a archaeological desk-based assessment carried out by ULAS (ULAS Report 2003-179) identified little of archaeological or architectural significance. The Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Charnwood Borough Council recommended that a photographic survey be carried out prior to demolition.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* was adhered to. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification* (3rd edition, 1996) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.

2. Methodology

The aim of the photographic survey is to record the building to a standard that will allow future interpretation of the building within its original context and any subsequent use, made to Level 3 of the RCHME 'Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification' (RCHME, *Third Edition*, 1996). All accessible areas of the building were photographed as well as general views of the exterior of the buildings.

Photographs were taken in 35mm format using both black and white print, colour transparency film.

There were a number of buildings on site, for ease of identification these were identified numerically. A number of the buildings were also sub-divided into bays, also identified numerically. See figure 2.

3. Buildings

The majority of the main buildings currently occupying the site probably relate to the late 20th century rebuilding, mainly during the early 1960s. They consist almost exclusively of brick and imported Welsh slate; some of the buildings have corrugated asbestos north light roofs, internal roof construction is of both timber king post design and steel trusses. There are fragments of the earlier buildings surviving on site, most notably building 1, which dates from the early part of the 20th century (Colour Plate 1) and a small room on the northernmost gable end of building 2 (Bay 4) which has apparently remained largely unaltered (Colour Plate 2).

The only remains of the earliest phase of building which first appears on the 1903 Ordnance Survey is the southernmost gable end of building 2 (Bay 4). The interior of this gable has been re-skinned in modern breeze-blocks, leaving no interior detail visible (Colour Plate 3).

4. Index

Photo Number	Description	Facing
001	Building 1/ Bay 1 General View.	East
002	Building 1/ Bay 1 General View.	East
003	Building 1/ Bay 1 General View.	West
004	Building 1/ Bay 1 General View.	West
005	Building 1/Bay 1, Detail of Steel Roof Truss.	
006	Building 1/Bay 1, Detail of Steel Roof Truss.	
007	Building 1/Bay 1, Circular Window in West Facing Wall.	
008	Building 1/Bay 1, Circular Window in West Facing Wall.	
009	Building 1/Bay 2 General View.	East
010	Building 1/Bay 2 General View.	East
011	Building 1/Bay 2, Detail of Timber Rafters.	
012	Building 1/Bay 2, Detail of Timber Rafters.	
013	Building 1, Room off Bay 2.	North
014	Building 1, Room off Bay 2.	North
015	Building 1/Bay 3 General View.	East
016	Building 1/Bay 3 General View.	East
017	Building 1/Bay 3, Detail of Timber Rafters.	
018	Building 1/Bay 3, Detail of Timber Rafters.	
019	Building 1/Bay 3, Detail of Cast Iron Pillars.	
020	Building 1/Bay 3, Detail of Cast Iron Pillars.	
021	Building 1 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
022	Building 1 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
023	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
024	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
025	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
026	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
027	Building 2 Gable End.	See Drawing
028	Building 2 Gable End.	See Drawing
029	Building 2, Detail of Probably Original Door.	
030	Building 2, Detail of Probably Original Door.	
031	Building 2, Interior of Room 1.	

032	Building 2, Interior of Room 1.	
033	Building 2, Interior of Room 1.	
034	Building 2, Interior of Room 1.	
035	Building 2/Bay 4 General View.	
036	Building 2/Bay 4 General View.	
037	Building 2/Bay 4, Detail of Roof Construction.	
038	Building 2/Bay 4, Detail of Roof Construction.	
039	Building 2/Bay 1 General View.	
040	Building 2/Bay 1 General View.	
041	Building 2/Bay 1, Detail of Roof Access Door.	
042	Building 2/Bay 1, Detail of Roof Access Door.	
043	Building 2/Bay 2 General View.	
044	Building 2/Bay 2 General View.	
045	Building 2/Bay 2 General View.	
046	Building 2/Bay 2 General View.	
047	Building 2/Bay 2, Detail of Cast Iron Pillar.	
048	Building 2/Bay 2, Detail of Cast Iron Pillar.	
049	Building 2/Bay 3 General View with Modern Hoist.	
050	Building 2/Bay 3 General View with Modern Hoist.	
051	Building 2/Bay 3 General View with Modern Hoist.	
052	Building 2/Bay 3 General View with Modern Hoist.	
053	Building 2/Bay 5 General View.	
054	Building 2/Bay 5 General View.	
055	Building 1 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
056	Building 1 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
057	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
058	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
059	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
060	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
061	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
062	Building 2 Outside Elevation.	See Drawing
063	Building 2 Gable End of Original Factory.	See Drawing
064	Building 2 Gable End of Original Factory.	See Drawing
065	Building 2 Original Slate Roof?	See Drawing
066	Building 2 Original Slate Roof?	See Drawing
067	Building 2/Bay 1 Gable End.	See Drawing
068	Building 2/Bay 1 Gable End.	See Drawing
069	Building 2/Bays 1,2, & 3.	See Drawing
070	Building 2/Bays 1,2, & 3.	See Drawing
071	Building 1/Bay 5.	See Drawing
072	Building 1/Bay5.	See Drawing

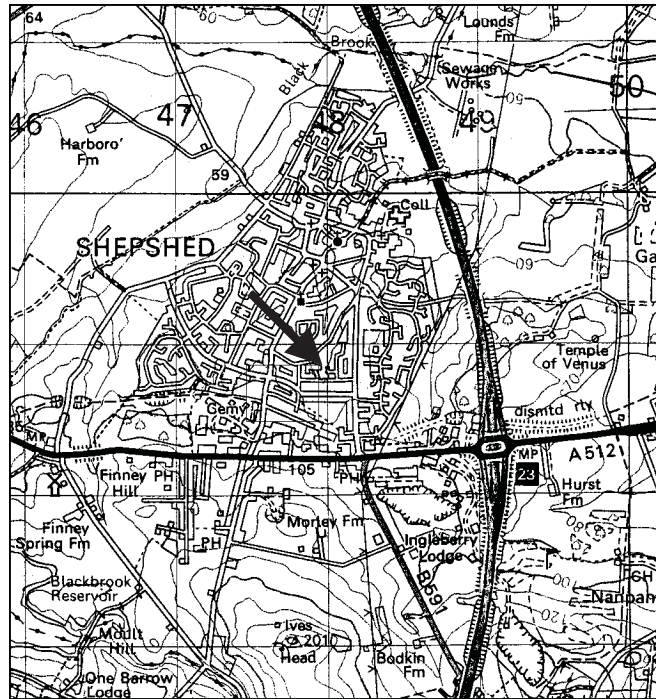


Figure 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

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5. Colour Plates



Colour Plate 1 Building 1, Southwest Facing Elevation.



Colour Plate 2 Room on North Westernmost Gable of Building 2/Bay 4.



Colour Plate 3 Gable End of Earliest Phase of Building.

5 Archive

The archive consists of 72 colour slide and black and white photographs and a site plan. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services.

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Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Photographic Survey

Former Shepshed Hosiery Co., Factory, Sullington Road, Shepshed, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 4795 1895

Client: Corporate Architecture Ltd and Prime Life Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

1. Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for a photographic survey at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG15). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide a record by photography of the existing structure on the site prior to demolition, at the request of the Planning Authority.

1.2 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client.

2. Background

2.1 *Context of the Project*

2.1.1 The site of the former Shepshed Hosiery Company, is located east of Sullington Road, Shepshed, Leicestershire (NGR SK 4795 1895). The buildings are shortly to be demolished and a desk based assessment has been prepared (ULAS Report 2003-179).

2.1.3 Development proposals for the erection of a care home on the site have been submitted to Charnwood Borough Council. The Planning Archaeologist of the Heritage Services Section of the Leicestershire County Council have advised the planning authority that a photographic survey of the existing building should be undertaken prior to demolition.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarized as follows:

- ‘The recording by photography of the building that is to be demolished to a standard that will allow the future interpretation of the building within the context for which it was originally designed and which subsequently evolved.’
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

4.1.1 The photographic record of all main, accessible, areas of the standing building on the site is required, and that as this entails total loss it should be made to Level 3 of the RCHME ‘Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification’ (RCHME, *Third Edition*, 1996).

4.1.2 The specific levels of detailed required include items 1-6 of the RCHME specification for photography.

Item 1: General view or views of the exterior of the building.

Item 2: The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.

Item 3: Detailed coverage of the building's exterior appearance.

Item 4: Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

Item 5: The building's relationship to its setting, to other buildings, or to a significant viewpoint.

Item 6: Internal detail, structural and decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use, and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

4.1.3 Photographs will be taken in 35mm format using both black and white print, colour transparency film, supplemented by colour print film and digital images as appropriate.

4.1.4 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IF) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* will be adhered to. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification* (3rd edition, 1996) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.

4.1.5 Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.

5. Report and Archive

5.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the Conservation Officer at Charnwood Borough Council (1 copy), to Heritage Services at Leicestershire County Council (1 copy), and to the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record in the Heritage Services at the County Council (1 copies).

5.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the work.
- The location, date, significance and quality of the building.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.

6 Publication and Dissemination of Results

6.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7. Copyright

7.1 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.

8. Timetable

8.1 It is envisaged that the photographic survey will be able to be completed within one day. It is likely that this will be carried out during w.c 28.6.04.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

10 Insurance

10.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. and others (leading policy no. 62/99094/D). Professional indemnity insurance is with Royal and Sun Alliance,

£10m cover, policy no. 03A/SA 001 05978. Employer's Liability Insurance is with Eagle Star, cover £25m. Copies of the certificates are attached.

11. Monitoring arrangements

- 11.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 11.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 11.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

12. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

- 12.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

13. Bibliography

- RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings; A Descriptive Specification Third Edition*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

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APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Former Shepshed Hosiery Co., Factory, Sullington Road, Shepshed, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 4795 1895

Client: Corporate Architecture Ltd and Prime Life Ltd

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended

1. **Nature of the work** during the course of the evaluation.
 - 1.1 The work will involve internal and external photographic record of the existing building.
- 2 **Risks Assessment**
 - 2.1 ***Working within a derelict building.***

Precautions. University of Leicester Archaeological Services has been led to believe that although the building is derelict and has suffered a recent arson attack, that it is safe to enter the majority of the building.

The archaeological building recorder will only enter rooms that they feel are safe. It is ULAS' understanding that they will be initially escorted around the building by someone who knows the structure.
 - 2.2 ***Other risks***

Precautions. If unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. pigeon guano or other contaminants or hazards are identified, such areas will not be entered, and the client will be informed of the risk.