

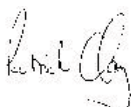
**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at The Villas, 10 West End,
Long Clawson,
Leicestershire
(SK 718 269)**

Leon Hunt

for

D.J Swallow Construction Ltd

Checked by Project Manager



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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Location and Geology.....	1
Aims and Methods	2
Results.....	2
Conclusion	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
Archive.....	4

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location map for Long Clawson. 1: 125000.....	2
Figure 2: Site Location.....	3
Figure 3: Plan of site, showing observations of watching brief.....	4

PLATES

Plate 1: Site after stripping to natural, looking north west	6
Plate 2: South west facing section of baulk, looking north east	6
Plate 3: South facing section of rear foundation trench, looking north	7
Plate 4: Brick well close to current building.....	7

APPENDIX: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Villas, 10 West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire (SK 718 269)

Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at The Villas, 10, West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and within the core of the medieval village of Long Clawson. Finds from the Saxo-Norman period have been found in the vicinity.

The site was visited by an archaeologist and the stripping of topsoil and the excavation of foundation trenches was observed. A brick built well was uncovered close to the neighbouring building, but no archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were observed during the work.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team with accession number X.A204.2007.

Introduction

An archaeological *watching brief* was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at The Villas, 10, West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire, (NGR SK 718 269). The work was commissioned from ULAS by D.J Swallow Construction Ltd and forms part of the planning proposal for the site, which will include the development of a new dwelling (Planning Application No. 2007/00360/6).

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16, Archaeology & Planning), paragraph 30 and addresses the requirements set out in the advice letter of 30/04/07 from Leicestershire County Council to Melton Borough Council and forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil planning condition 6 required by Melton Borough Council.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of Long Clawson and close to the findspot of Saxo-Norman pottery (MLE6988) and opposite the site of a post-medieval blacksmiths (MLE9306).

Location and Geology

The site lies on the northern side of West End at the western side of the village of Long Clawson, which lies around 5 miles (8km) to the north-west of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (Figures 1 & 2).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Lower Lias clay. The site lies at a height of c. 73m O.D. The site covers an area of 0.04ha.

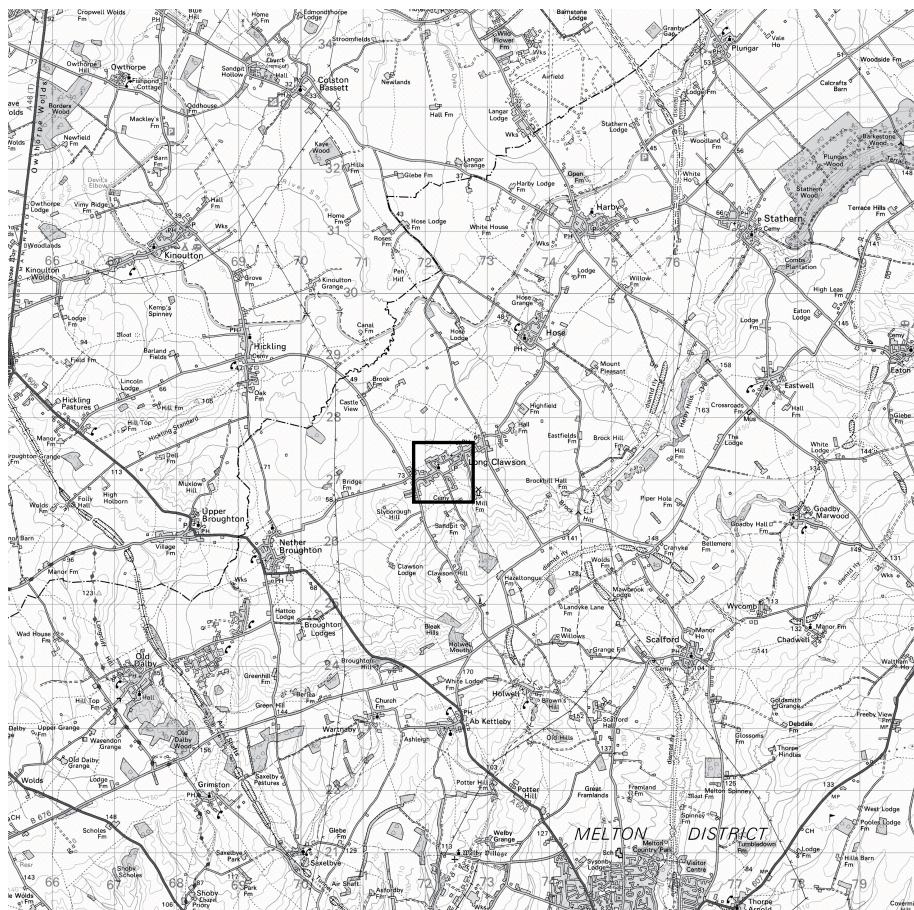


Figure 1: Location map for Long Clawson. 1: 125000

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Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The site was visited on 17th, 18th, 21st and 25th September 2007 and topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches were observed.

Results

An initial visit was carried out by the author on 17th September but the work was unable to commence: the site had already been cleared of trees and shrubbery by this time.

The site was visited again on 18th September and topsoil stripping was observed. The topsoil consisted of a very dark greyish brown sandy clay, containing very few stones, but some ceramic building material. A brick well was situated in the western edge of the site and was still partly full of water. Some of the brick rubble originated from this

feature as the machine had displaced the upper course of bricks of the well. Work ceased at midday as the large of topsoil already stripped could not be removed from the site.



Figure 2: Site Location

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Work recommenced on 21st September and the full topsoil strip of the footprint of the new dwelling was observed. The topsoil was stripped to the natural yellow and grey clay that lay around 0.4m under the surface. The tracking of the machine caused some smearing of the surface and so it was difficult to fully observe whether any archaeology was present. With this in mind the author made a final visit on 25th September to observe the excavation of the foundation trenches. These were dug to a depth of 1.1m though solid clay, revealing no archaeological features.

Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank D.J Swallow for their help and co-operation during this watching brief. The watching brief was carried out by the author, the project manager was Patrick Clay.

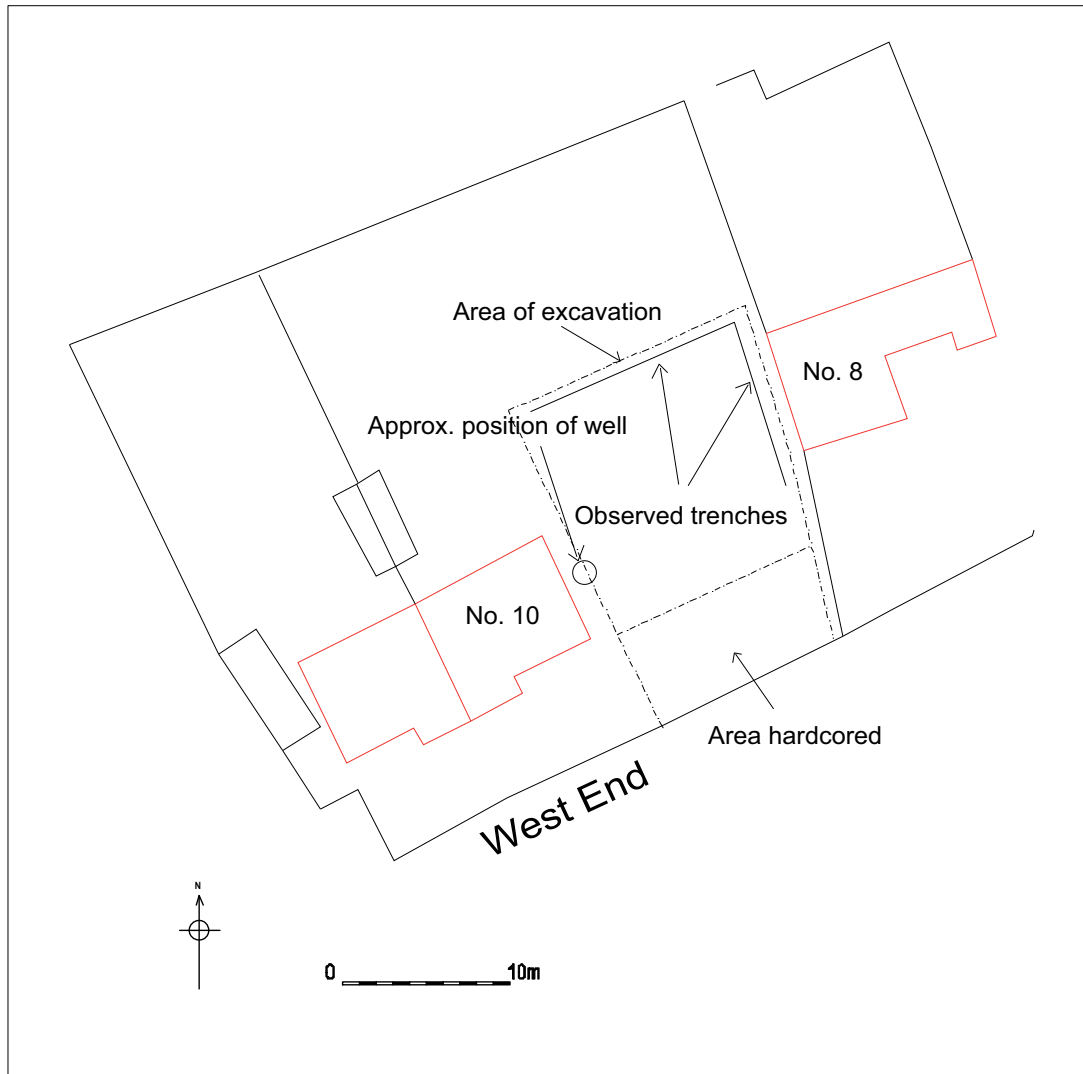


Figure 3: Plan of site, showing observations of watching brief

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team with accession number X.A204.2007 and consists of the following:

- 3 watching brief recording sheets
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 unbound copy of this report
- 1 Architect's Plan

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Plate 1: Site after stripping to natural, looking north west



Plate 2: South-west facing section of baulk, looking north east



Plate 3: South facing section of rear foundation trench, looking north



Plate 4: Brick well close to current building

APPENDIX:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

The Villas, 10, West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire SK 718 269

Planning Application: 2007/00360/6

For: D J Swallow Construction Ltd

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 residential development at The Villas, 10, West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire SK 718 269, Planning Application: 2007/00360/6 for: D J Swallow Construction Ltd

It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice letter of 30.04.2007 from Leicestershire County Council to Melton Borough Council. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil planning condition 6 required by Melton Borough Council.

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 watching brief involves attendance for inspection and recording during ground disturbance 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 site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is inside the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village, close to the findspot of Saxo-Norman pottery sherds and opposite to the site of a post-medieval blacksmiths workshop (HER Refs. No. MLE6988 and MLE9306). In addition, the site is on a street frontage.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological supervision 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 supervision 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, 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 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. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council 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 An accession number will be drawn before the commencement of groundworks. A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks. Following the fieldwork the work will be entered on to the OASIS project database.

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. 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 (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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23.08.2007

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

The Villas, 10, West End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire SK 718 269

Planning Application: 2007/00360/6

For: D J Swallow Construction Ltd

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 Vialls 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
23.08.2007