



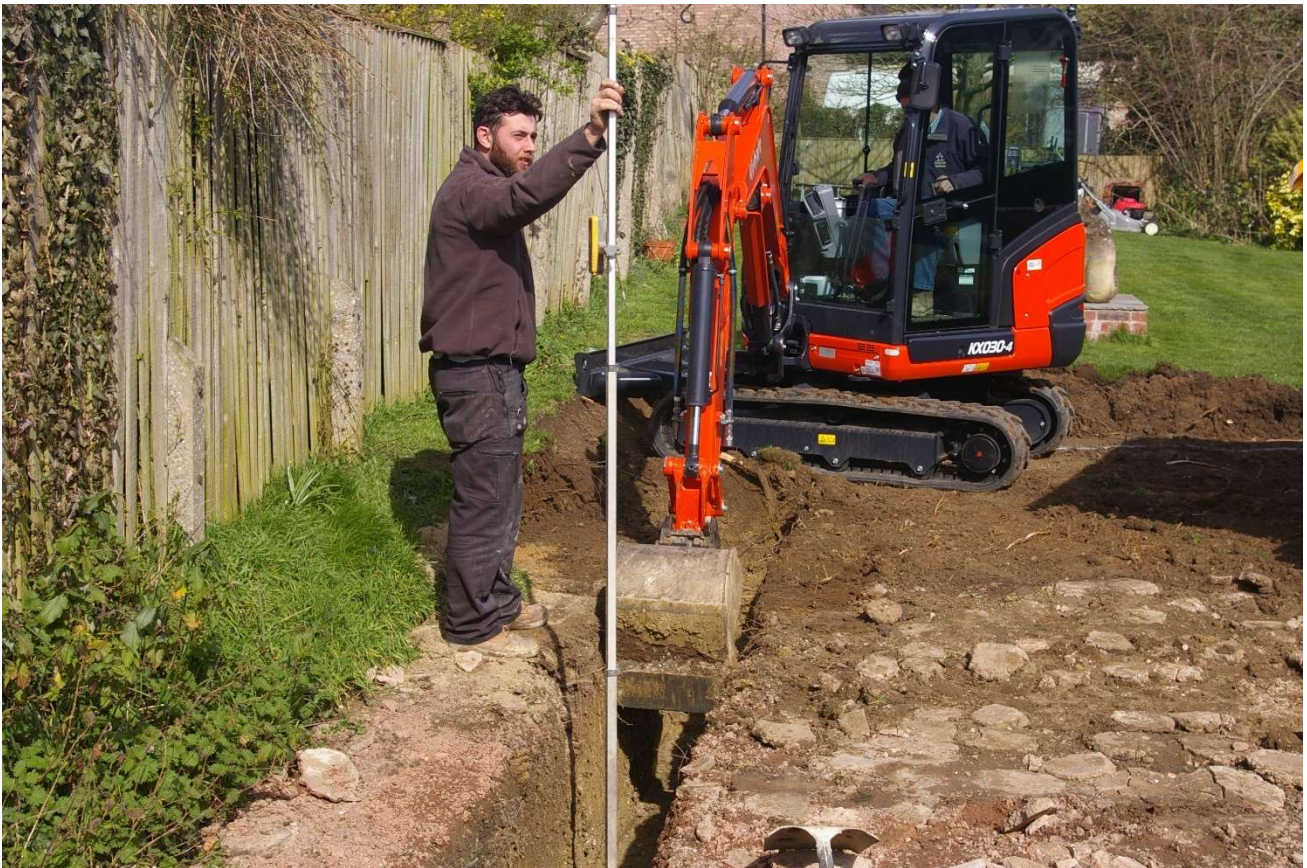
UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
44 King Street,
Seagrave,
Leicestershire
LE12 7LY**

NGR: SK 61919 17719

Donald Clark



**ULAS Report No: 2020-053
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Site Name: 44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY

Grid Ref: SK 61919 17719

Author: Donald Clark

Client: Mr. Andrew Chell

Planning Ref. P/19/1157/2

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OASIS RECORD

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	Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY		
	Start/end dates	23/03/2020		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Watching Brief		
	Site Status	Archaeological Alert Area		
	Current Land Use	Hard standing		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	P/19/1157/2			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY		
	Study Area	61.44 metres sq		
	Site Coordinates	SK 61919 17719		
	Height OD	84m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (Charnwood Borough Council)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Donald Clark		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Mr. Andrew Chell		
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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY

Donald Clark

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at 44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY (SK 61919 17719), during groundworks prior to the erection of a three bay garage.

The house lies within the historic core of the village and there are medieval earthworks nearby. The archaeological work involved monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches.

The excavations revealed a varying depth of topsoil and subsoil, lying over the natural stony clay. No archaeological finds or features were retrieved or revealed during the watching brief.

The archive for the work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2020.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological watching brief carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY (NGR: SK 61919 17719).

The fieldwork was carried out in advance of the erection of a three bay garage, as a mitigation strategy to provide a record of any archaeological remains. The fieldwork and report addresses the requirements of Charnwood Borough Council for a scheme of work comprising archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (a 'Watching Brief').

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Seagrave lies in the Borough of Charnwood, Leicestershire around 5 miles east of Loughborough and 2 miles north-east of Sileby (Fig. 1).

The site lay in the garden of 44 King Street, Seagrave and consisted of an area of hard standing and a small area of lawn. The total area covered 61.44m² and was level at a height of around 84m aOD.

The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the area as Scunthorpe Formation Mudstone overlain in part by Oadby Member Diamicton (clay, silt, chalk and flint inclusions).

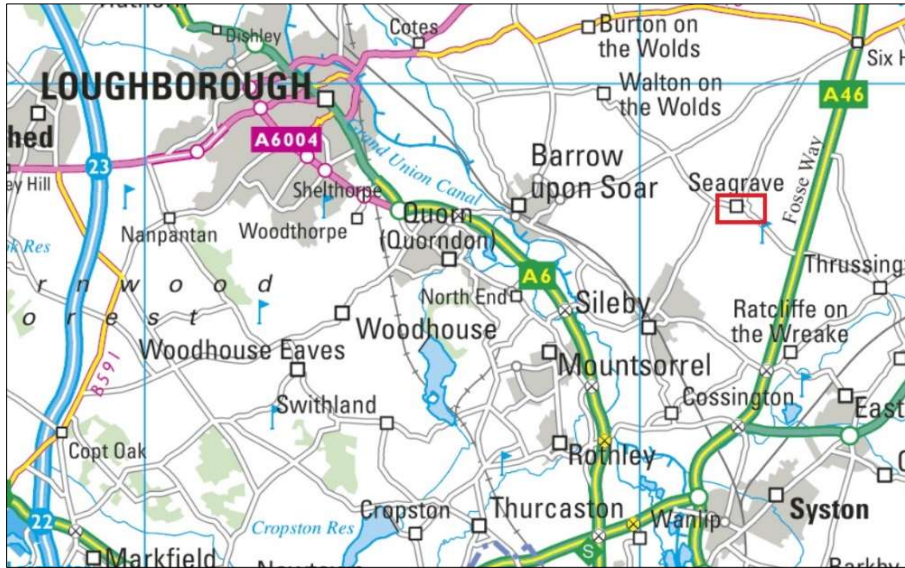


Figure 1: Location of Seagrave within Leicestershire

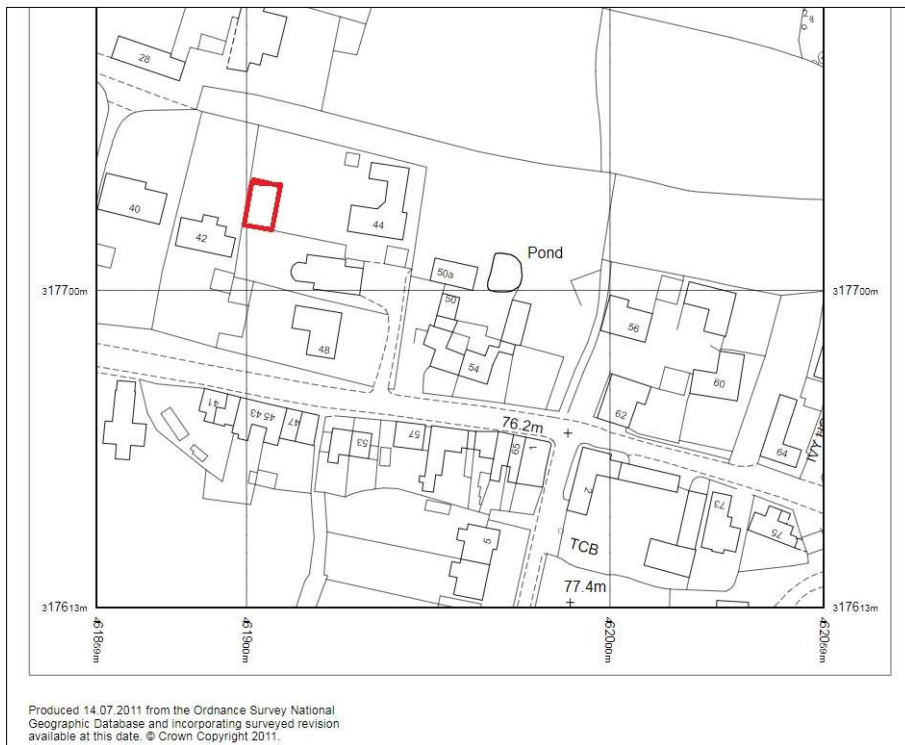


Figure 2: Location of proposed garage, in red, within garden of 44 King Street, Seagrave (supplied by client)

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER) indicates that the site lies within the historic medieval core of the village of Seagrave (HER Ref. No. **MLE922**). There are known medieval earthworks to the north of the village centre (**MLE917**), 170m north-west of the site, as well as 350m to the south, below Hall Farm (**MLE8608**). A curving medieval property boundary known as the town dyke lies approx. 70m to the south. These earthworks indicate that the size of Seagrave has changed with time. An archaeological evaluation in 2006 recorded an undated cobbled track to the south-west of the site

(**MLE15925**). Medieval pottery has been found at Church Street, 120m to the south-east (**MLE10651**). There are three listed buildings in close proximity to the site. The first is an 18th century brick cottage (**MLE13209**) about 75m to the south, on the opposite side of King Street. There is also an 18th century rendered brick house (**MLE13197**) to the south-east, on the junction with Church Street. The closest recorded listed building is 50m to the south-east at The Firs, 50 King Street (**MLE13205**). The building is a red brick Dovecote dated 1719, with a Swithland slate roof, and it lies on the eastern edge of a group of associated farm buildings. The earliest OS map featuring the Dovecote dates to 1884.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the watching brief have been defined as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

All mitigation work will be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012), along with targeting national research aims. Details of the specific objectives can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Henderson and Evern 2020).

Research Objectives

The presence of prehistoric features in the area suggests a potential for further features of this date. There is also potential for further information on the origins of the village. It is therefore possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (2006) and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (2012).

High Medieval (7.2 Rural settlement)

- 7.2.4 Can we clarify further the processes of settlement desertion and shrinkage, especially within zones of dispersed settlement?

Post-Medieval (8.3 Agricultural landscapes and the food-producing economy)

- 8.3.1 How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?

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.



Figure 3: Contractor measuring depth of west back wall trench. Attempts to photograph walls of trenches were hampered by narrowness and shadow



Figure 4: North side wall trench. Attempts to photograph walls of trenches were hampered by narrowness and shadow



Figure 5: South side wall trench. Attempts to photograph walls of trenches were hampered by narrowness and shadow

Conclusion

The site at 44 King Street, Seagrave lay within the historic medieval core of the village. There are medieval earthworks nearby suggesting that the village had shrunk in size since the medieval period and therefore there was potential for medieval remains in the study area.

However, only undisturbed natural sub stratum was observed beneath the topsoil and subsoil.

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

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2020 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report (2020-053)

1 watching brief recording sheet

1 Photographic record

1 CD of 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.

Bibliography

Charnwood Borough Council, 24/07/2019. Planning Officer Recommendation Report-44 King Street, Seagrave, Leicestershire LE12 7LY (P/12/1157/2)

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