

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
11-15 George Street, Lutterworth
(SP 544 844)**

James Harvey & Gavin Speed

P.A 03/01147/3

For: CSW Properties

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: **Date:**.....

Name:

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

Contents

Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Location and geology.....	1
Archaeological objectives.....	2
Archaeological background.....	2
Methodology.....	3
Results.....	3
Conclusion.....	3
Archive.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
References.....	3

Illustrations

- Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.
- Figure 2: Location plan showing area of the development.
- Figure 3: Development plan
- Figure 4: Development plan (detail)

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 11-15 George Street, Lutterworth.
(SP 544 844)**

James Harvey & Gavin Speed

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report No. 2004/044

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 13 February 2004 during groundworks for development on land at 11-15 George Street, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 544 844) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of CSW Properties.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, Accession No. X.A 44 2004.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for development on land at 11-15 George Street, Lutterworth (SP 544 844).

The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record. In view of this, an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was required as part of the planning conditions by Harborough District Council (planning application no. 03/01147/3).

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, CSW Properties. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 13th February 2004, the work involved archaeological observation during excavation of foundation trenches for a new complex of dwellings, shops and a restaurant.

Location and Geology

The site is located c. 18km south from the centre of Leicester, within the historic core of Lutterworth at a height of c.110m above O.D. (fig. 1). The British Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Baginton sands and gravels.

Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify 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 ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Archaeological Background

The development area is recognised as being situated within the historic core of Lutterworth. Some of the development area lies directly on the George Street frontage and it was thought likely that remains relating to former occupation of the site may exist beneath the modern layers.

The development site is situated close to another recent archaeological watching brief at The Hind Hotel, High Street. Evidence was revealed for post-medieval layers of 17th or 18th century, and quarry pits dating to the 13th or 14th centuries (Thomas 2002:2).

Methodology

The watching brief involved supervision of two foundation trenches; the rest of the building will be constructed using existing foundations. These trenches measured 27m and 5m in length, at a width of 600mm and were excavated using a JCB mechanical digger equipped with a ditching bucket. Also, four pads had been hand dug along the adjoining property wall to the south measuring 60mm x 60mm x 50mm. Following the machine excavation, the entire stripped area, and trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for archaeological work*, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

Results

The ground level varied on site; there is a noticeable step in the level 6.5m back from the edge of the path along George Street where the ground rises some 0.6. The 27m Trench varied in depth between 1m and 2m and the natural substratum was reached in all areas, typically consisting of sand and gravel. The area fronting George Street was the main area of interest, it is believed that much of the backyard had been disturbed by a Victorian building. Approximately 10m of the trench involved removing an existing Victorian wall that had been constructed onto the natural substratum.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services with the Accession No. X.A 44.2004. It consists of watching brief sheets, colour transparency slides and monochrome negatives.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for inclusion in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank CSW Properties for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by James Harvey, the report was written by Gavin Speed; the project manager is Richard Buckley.

Bibliography

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| MAP 2 | <i>The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991.</i> |
| RFG/FRG 1993. | <i>Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993).</i> |
| Thomas, J. 2000 | <i>An Archaeological Watching brief on land to the rear of 'The Hind Hotel', Lutterworth, Leicestershire. ULAS Report No: 2002-046.</i> |

Gavin Speed
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

gs50@leicester.ac.uk
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

01.03.2004

Illustrations

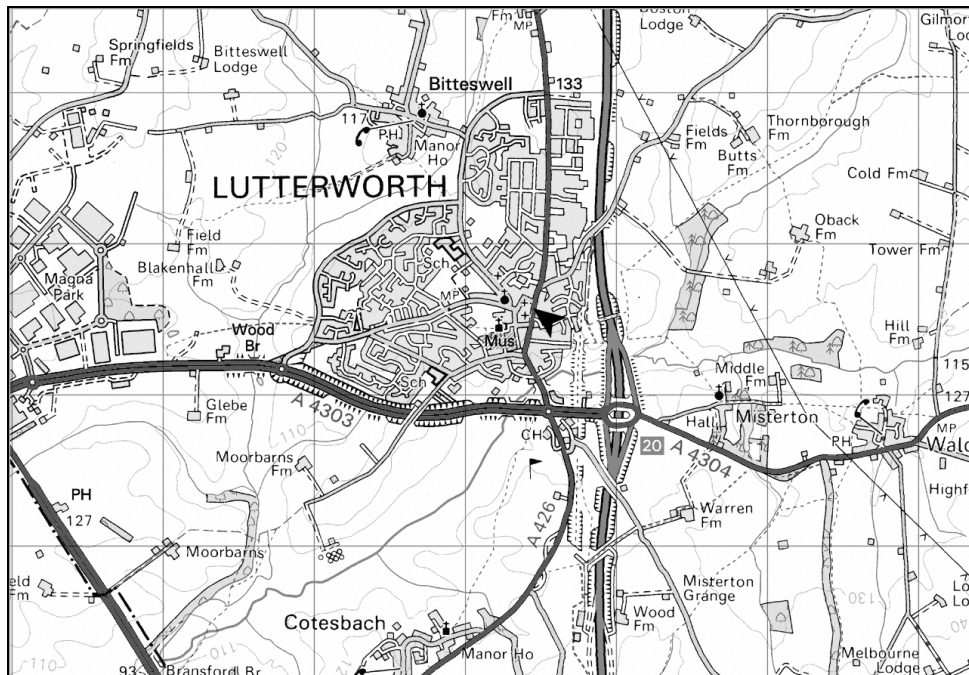


Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.



Figure 2: Development area (situated in the centre of the plan).
Scale 1: 1000.

6

7