

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Lyddington Bede House,
Lyddington, Rutland (SP 875 970)**

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**For
English Heritage**

Checked by Project Manager

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland, (SP 875 970)

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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by University Of Leicester Archaeological Services at Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland during the excavation of trenches in connection with the replacement of underground Electric Sub-mains cabling. A number of features were uncovered including part of a wall, a possible hearth and an earth closet. A number of medieval finds were also discovered, including a ridge tile. The site archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum. An accession number has yet to be issued.

Introduction

This report outlines the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during the excavation of a trench to incorporate new and replacement Electric Sub-mains cables within the area of scheduled ancient monument 17395, Lyddington Bede House. The archaeological watching brief involved archaeological supervision during hand digging to identify and record any deposits of archaeological importance, which might be impacted on by the groundworks as outlined in the Method Statement of 16th February 2004 by Alan Capewell and following the Design Specification for Archaeological Work (ULAS 2004) (appendix 2).

The work included the replacement of underground cables supplying Lyddington Bede House utilising an existing excavation trench, and the installation of electric cables to an external W.C following the route of a previously excavated foul water drainage trench where possible. These trenches would mainly run under the grass in the adjacent walled gardens of the house, except for one section that runs under the stone slabs at the front of the Bede House (Fig. 2).

The present building is only part of the original medieval complex and any excavation in the adjacent area may well uncover archaeological features such as an earlier range of buildings.

Historical and Archaeological Background

Previous Archaeological observations close to the Bede House have revealed a large enclosure ditch, most likely of late Saxon or Norman origin, which the large precinct wall of the churchyard at Lyddington church seems to respect.

The estate passed from Saxon hands to the Bishop of Lincoln in 1085 and remained in their hands throughout the middle ages. The proximity to the royal forest of Rockingham, with its hunting and royal connections, along with its situation close to

the centre of the diocese led to the Bishops of Lincoln to develop their estate at Lyddington.

After the Reformation the house briefly passed into the hands of Lord Cromwell and then William Cecil. It was Cecil's son, Thomas, who converted the palace into an almshouse in 1602. The word Bedehouse means 'house of prayer' and derives from the fact that the inmates were expected to pray for the soul of the founder (Liddle, 1983)

The existing building of the Bede House is the eastern cross wing of a great hall, built in the early fourteenth century most likely by Bishop Burghersh. The stair of this building still exists within the gabled structure projecting from the western side of the building. (Woodfield & Woodfield 1988)

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 (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced.

The archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The site was visited intermittently from the 9th to the 12th March 2004. During these visits the hand digging of the trenches was observed, along with the lifting of many of the stone slabs and the excavation of the access into the toilet block. The trenches were observed for signs of archaeological features and were recorded where appropriate. All finds were recovered and bagged as they emerged.

The Results

A 0.3m x 0.5m trial hole was excavated against the south western wall of the Privy Chamber wall (fig. 3) to uncover the electric cables close to their point of origin in order to assess the depth of the trench needed to expose the redundant cable. This hole was 0.5m deep and exposed part of the foundations of the wall, which were of a similar form to the wall and were three courses deep.

Throughout its length the cable trench was approximately 0.2m wide and approximately 0.5m deep, except where features were encountered. Where the cable was to pass under the northern wall of the garden (fig.3) the foundations of this wall were also exposed. These were similar to the courses seen earlier.

The fill of the trench largely consisted of a loose dark brown loam with some small stones, pieces of masonry and medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery, including a piece of thirteenth century splash ware ridge tile. (Appendix 1). The first half of the

trench had been previously excavated for the earlier cable. Throughout these sections a fine sand was also evident within the fill. This was deposited during the previous backfilling.

The section of trench from the privy chamber to the point where the cable passed into the main building was devoid of features, although a few pieces of pottery were in evidence. However, as the trench passed close to the gabled stairwell two features were uncovered.

The first feature was situated close to where the veranda meets the stairwell porch. This consisted of buried stonework of local undressed ironstone, which lay under 0.1m of loam and rubble at a depth of 0.21m (feature 1, figs. 2 & 4).

Where the trench crossed the front of the porch under the modern day gravel path a further feature was discovered (feature 2). This consisted of a section of rubble wall, around 0.6m across, which appeared to be on an east-west alignment. Close to this wall, in front of the porch was a small black lens within the section, which may represent part of the wall of the second hall.

As the trench progressed across the site towards the toilet block, many pieces of pottery were recovered from the trench and other evidence of stone work could be seen where the trench moved close to the wall of the main building (fig. 2). However, it was during the excavation of the toilet block that the discovery was made of a feature below the modern toilet.

To facilitate the feeding of the cable through into the toilet building the contractors removed part of the floor under the toilet itself. Under this was revealed a void partially filled with rubble and brick. This was duly excavated and several courses of stonework were revealed under the floor of the modern toilet (fig. 6), along with a small vaulted section opposite it, under the northern wall of the block (fig. 5). A bone handled brush, most likely Victorian, was discovered within the fill of the closet (Appendix 1).

Discussion

The lack of archaeological features within the trench at the southern end of the Bede House is not surprising, as the trench followed the line of the existing cable. The east-west aligned wall close to the porch (feature 2) is likely to be the remains of an earlier range, most likely connected with the first or second halls (fig.2). The stonework to the south of this (feature 1) is more enigmatic as it does not appear to be made of dressed stone, although its position suggests that it is a remnant of the east wall of the first hall (fig. 2)

The courses of dressed stone, which lie underneath the current toilet block appeared at first investigation to point to being the outer wall of an undiscovered cellar or an ice house or a cess pit. Closer investigation by Sarah Cole of English Heritage has shown it to be an earth closet, which would have been replaced at some point by the modern toilet (Sarah Coles pers. comm.). This previously unknown feature is an interesting addition to the history of the Bede House.

The Archive

The archive will be lodged with Rutland County Museum. An accession number is to be issued. The archive consists of the following:

2x A3 sheets of permagraph.

4x watching brief record sheets.

1 film colour slides

1 film B&W contact prints

Bibliography

Woodfield, C., & Woodfield, P., 1988, reprinted 1993 *Lyddington Bede House* English Heritage HMSO.

Liddle, P., 1983 *A Guide To Archaeological Sites In Leicestershire* Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service.

Clay, P., 2004 *Design Specification for Archaeological Work, Lyddington Bede House, Rutland (SP 875 970)* ULAS Report number 04/587.

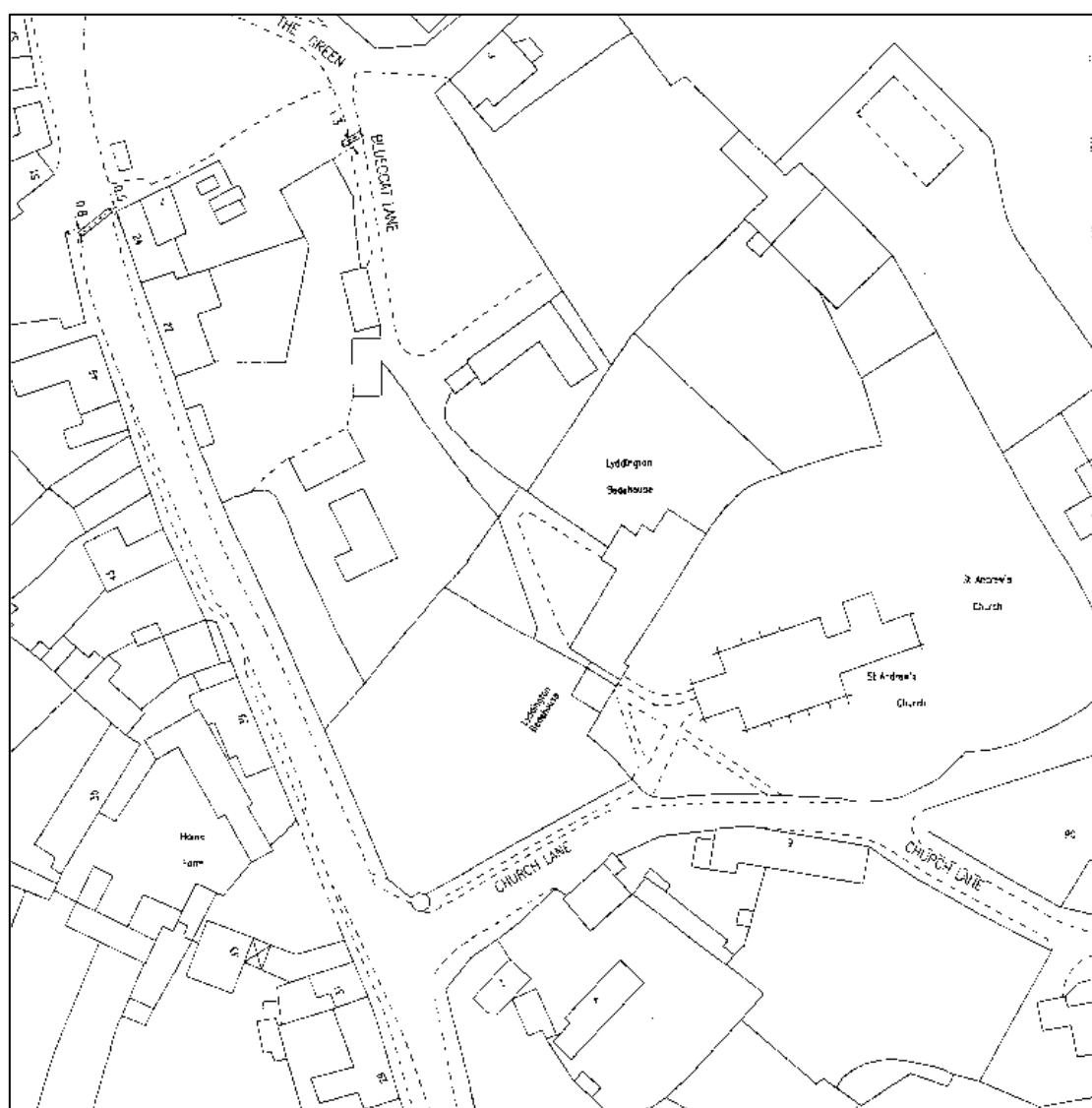


Fig 1: Location of Lyddington Bede House. 1:1000. From map supplied by EME.

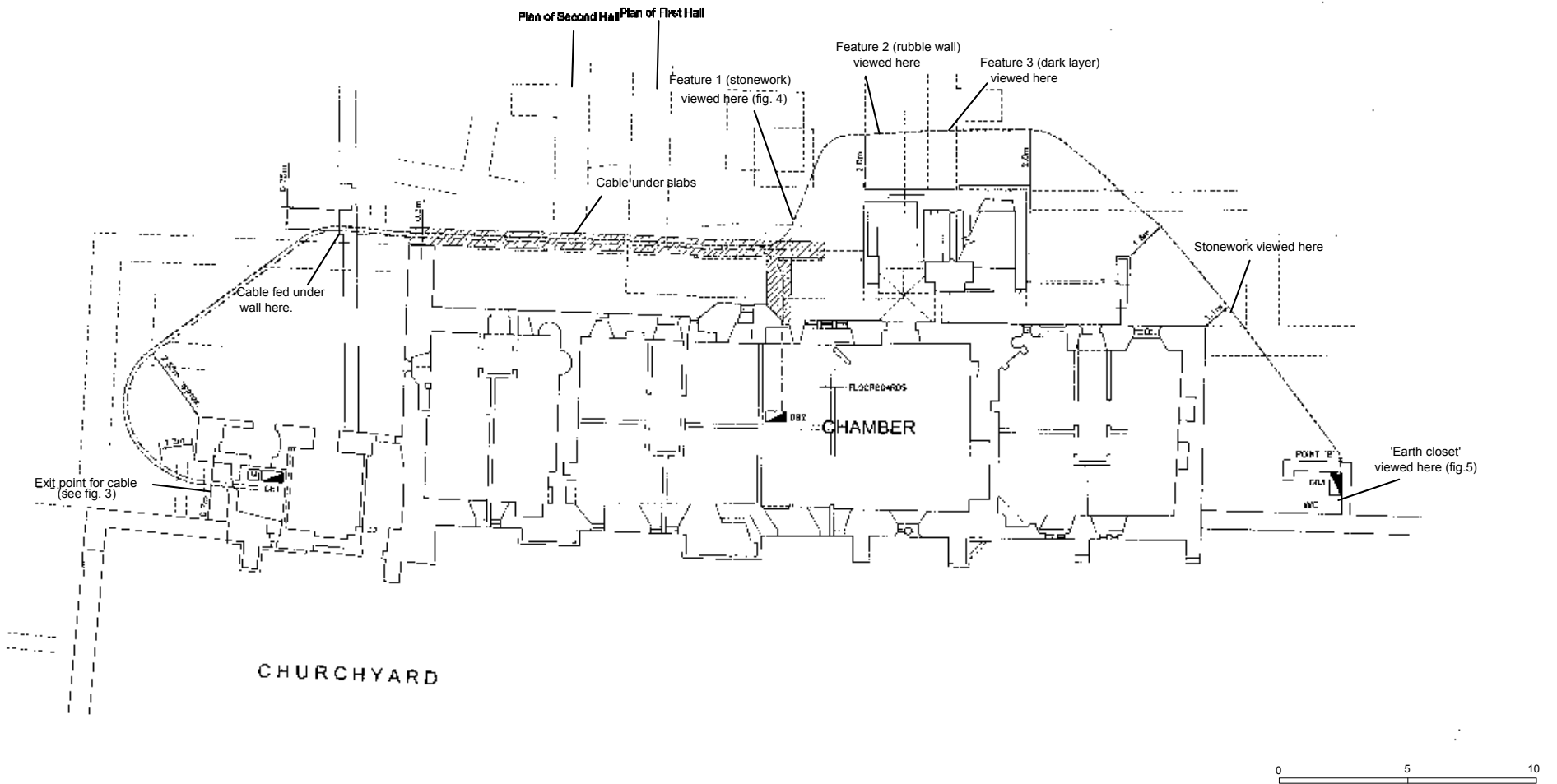


Fig. 2: Plan of Bedehouse with cable trench, with archaeological features highlighted.

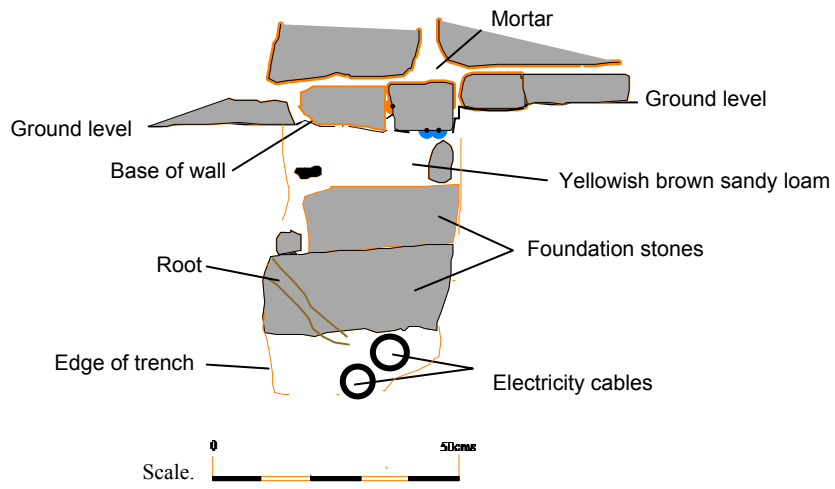


Fig. 3: Southwest facing section of wall of privy chamber of Bedehouse.

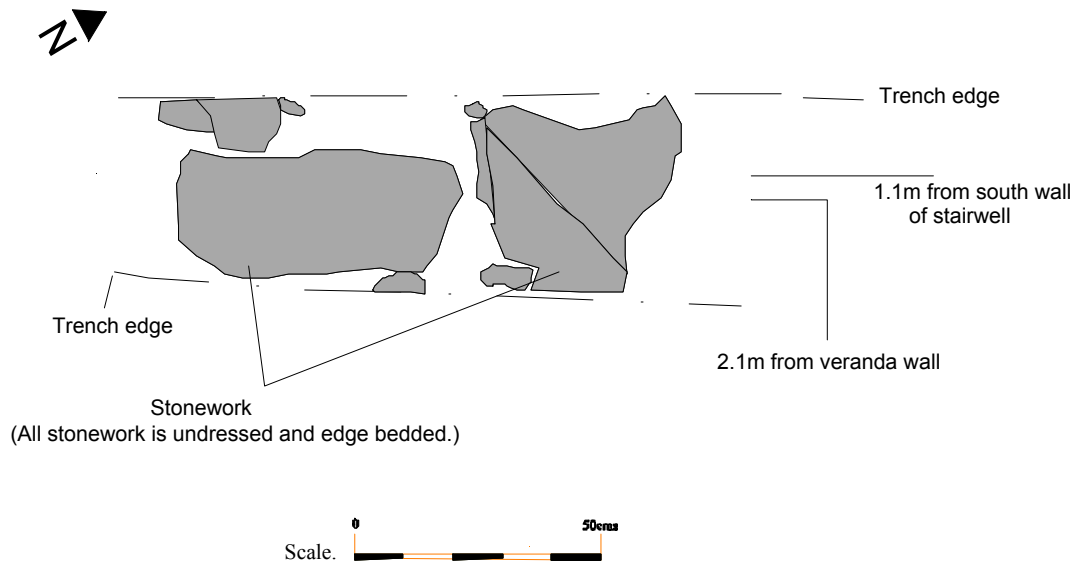


Fig 4: Plan of feature 1

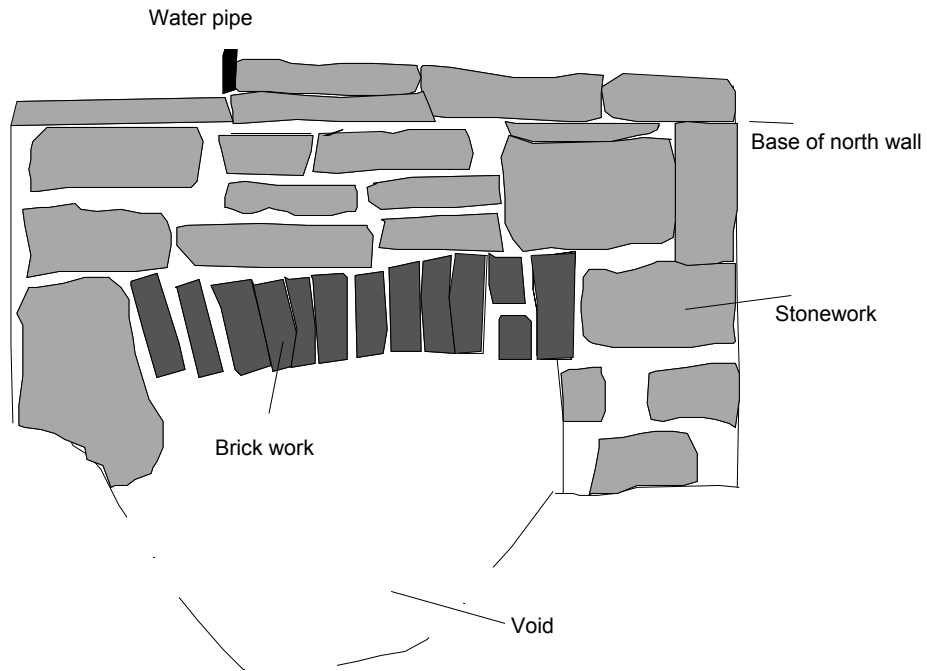


Fig 5: South facing section of toilet block foundations, showing vaulted section of earth closet.

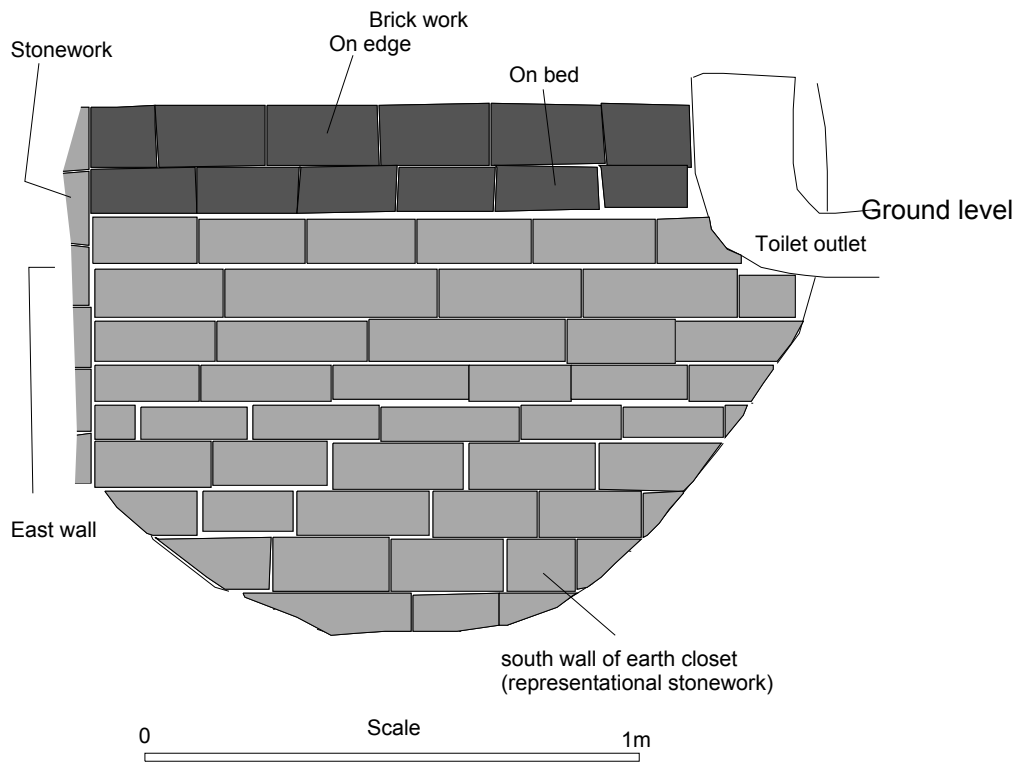


Fig 6: North facing section of earth closet, showing stonework under toilet floor.

APPENDIX 1: The pottery and miscellaneous finds from Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland.

D. Sawday

The twenty-nine sherds of pottery found in unstratified contexts during the watching brief were examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). This material was predominantly post medieval or modern in date. Also present was a single fragment of medieval ridge tile, possibly a Nottingham splashed ware, dating from the early to mid thirteenth century.

Also of note was a bone handled brush, probably Victorian in date, from the back fill of an earth closet.

Bibliography

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. 5, 165-213.

Site/Parish: Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland. Accession No/ Doc Ref: Material: Pottery, ridge tile & misc. Site Type: Religious House	Submitter: LH Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 27.04.04 Method of Recovery: watching brief
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context	fabric/ware	sherd nos.	weight grams	comments
POTTERY				
U/S	CW/MB – Cistercian/Midland Blackware	1	7	Later medieval, early post medieval
	EA1 – Earthenware 1	1	14	Early post medieval
	EA2 – Earthenware 2	2	70	Post medieval/modern
	EA3 – Mottled ware	6	98	
	EA7 - Slipware	1	15	Press moulded, slip trailed dec., ?17 th – 18 th C.
	EA6 - Blackware	9	117	May include frags. of metropolitan slipware
	EA - Earthenware	1	13	?post medieval redware
	EA	1	10	Flower pot, modern
	SW - Stoneware	1	15	
	EA9/EA10 – Pearl Ware/White Earthenware	5	53	Modern
Ridge Tile				

U/S	?SP2 – Nottingham Splashed ware	1	113	Early – mid 13 th C.
CLAY PIPE				
U/S	China clay	3		Stem frags.
MISC				
Earth closet fill	bone	1		Polished bone handled brush, 160 mm in length, bristles missing. Stamped ‘..SON & SONS, LONDON ENGLAND.’ ?Victorian

APPENDIX 2: DESIGN SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland (SP 875 970)

Planning Application: N/A

For: English Heritage

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) section 2, this specification provides a written scheme of investigation for archaeological attendance, as required by English Heritage of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with proposed works to replace underground Electric Sub-mains cable within the area of scheduled ancient monument 17395, Lyddington Bede House.

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 1997).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involves archaeological supervision during hand digging to identify and record any deposits of archaeological importance which might be impacted on by the groundworks.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland SMR shows that the works lie within the area of a scheduled ancient monument (17395), a medieval Bishops palace, which after the reformation became an almshouse. The present range is only part of the original complex and probably formed the south side of a courtyard. There is the possibility, therefore that the line of the cable will cross an earlier range.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological control and supervision of trench excavation by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any 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 continuous supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. The works comprise the

excavation of drainage channels. 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 ('brief' 12).

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. English Heritage, Leicestershire County Council 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 English Heritage and Leicestershire County 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 English Heritage and Leicestershire County Council. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works may 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 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

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 (2001) 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 Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

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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23.2.2004

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Lyddington Bede House, Lyddington, Rutland (SP 875 970)

Planning Application: N/A

For: English Heritage

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 Wiels 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
23.2.2003