

**A Photographic Building Survey
and an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Three Tuns, 104 High Street,
Earl Shilton, Leicestershire.**

(SK 46769786).

Jon Coward and Gavin Speed

For: Corporate Architecture Limited, D. W. Hicks Builders Ltd.
and Raglan Housing Association Leicester

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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: Position of Three Tuns public house (based on a plan supplied by Corporate Architecture Ltd).

Plates 1-20 Photographic record of Three Tuns Public House.

Appendix 1: Brief for archaeological recording work at Three Tuns, 104 High Street, Earl Shilton. Department of Community Services Environmental Management Group.

Appendix 2: Design Specification for level 3 Photographic Survey at Three Tuns Public House, Earl Shilton. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (08/12/2003).

Appendix 3: Brief for archaeological watching brief at Three Tuns, 104 High Street, Earl Shilton. Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (27/11/03).

A Photographic Building Survey and an Archaeological Watching Brief at Three Tuns, 104 High Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP468 978).

Jon Coward and Gavin Speed

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Report No. 2004/027

Summary

A photographic survey was carried out by ULAS for Corporate Architecture Ltd, D. W. Hicks Builders Ltd and Raglan Housing Association on the former Three Tuns Public House, a presumed nineteenth century inn on the High Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (SP468 978), prior to demolition and redevelopment.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works for the erection of eight dwellings at 104 High Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (P.A 02/0723/FUL and 03/0793/FUL) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of D. W. Hicks Builders Ltd and Raglan Housing Association.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during the watching brief. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under accession number X.A.15.2004.

1. Introduction

Earl Shilton lies c.16km to the southwest of Leicester (fig 1.). The site for the residential development is situated in the centre of Earl Shilton (NGR SP 46740 97850) within an area of likely archaeological potential. In view of this, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council recommended the need for a level 3 photographic survey to the RCHME standards of the Three Tuns public house, and an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works (p/a: 02/0723/FUL and 03/0793/FUL). This requirement was detailed in the *Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief at the Three Tuns, 104 High Street, Earl Shilton* (appendix), produced by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (27/11/03).

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the photographic survey and watching brief on behalf of the client. The photographic survey was undertaken by ULAS in December 2003, and the archaeological watching brief took place on the 16th, 19th, and 20th of January 2004.

2. Location and Geology

The development area is located in 0.1ha of land at 104 High Street, Earl Shilton (SK 4676 9786), at a height of *c.*118 O.D. The underlying geology comprised of sand and gravel (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155).

3. Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the photographic survey were:

- To record 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.

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.

4. Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record shows that the application area lies within an area of archaeological potential within the medieval historic core of Earl Shilton. There has been no previous archaeological work within the application area.

5. Methodology

The photographic survey was undertaken with monochrome negative film and colour slide film rated at 400ASA, using 35mm format SLR cameras. The position of the photographs taken were marked on a plan of the building provided by the developers, together with other notes on the structure. For the purposes of this report, selected images were scanned and manipulated in Photoshop Elements software. The exterior shots were complicated by the presence of a heavily smoking rubbish fire in the yard

of the public house at the time of the survey, also that part of the frontage had been screened off from the street.

The watching brief involved supervision of overburden machine stripping, and ground works in advance of the construction of eight properties. This was carried out using a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket. Following the machine excavation, all exposed areas were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

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

6. Description of the Three Tuns public house and results of the watching brief

The building fronted onto the High Street in Earl Shilton, on a slight bend in the road. It appeared to be of mid-late nineteenth century date, and built in stages, although more precise dates for the building construction and sequence would necessitate research beyond the scope of this survey.

It is brick built, in two storeys. The core of the building appears to be a double fronted house (the south east corner of the buildings) with a slate roof. Attached to the north is a similar building which may be contemporary, but would have been in different ownership originally. At some point the buildings have been knocked through, and enlarged with short cross wings to the rear. There is a cart house at the north end. The enlargement may herald a change of use into a public house. The cellarge shows evidence of adaptation: a long tunnel-like brick vault leads to the front of the building where a barrel hatch has been installed directly under the blocked front door. A further cellar has been added to the rear. In recent years a low flat-roofed outbuilding has been tacked on the back.

The archaeological watching brief involved the observation of overburden machine stripping. The topsoil consisted of a dark blackish/brown clayey garden soil, with occasional modern plastic and brick. The subsoil was generally at a depth of 0.2m and consisted of a light brown sandy-silt. The natural substratum generally occurred at a depth of 0.5m, it consisted of sandy gravels with patches of red clay. No archaeological finds or deposits were located within overburden or in the stripped areas during the watching brief.

7. Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. Any archaeological deposits that may have existed, may have been disturbed/removed by the public house at an earlier date.

8. Site Archive

The archive consists of site notes, 2 sheets of colour slides, 1 sheet of monochrome negatives, 1 sheet of monochrome contact prints, and 2 plans of the surveyed areas, showing the position of all survey shots. It will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, in due course, under the accession number X.A.15.2004.

9. Publication

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

10. Acknowledgements

The building recording was carried out by Jon Coward, and the archaeological watching brief by Gavin Speed; the project manager was James Meek.

11. Bibliography

- MAP 2 *The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991.*
- RFG/FRG 1993 *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993).*

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12. 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.

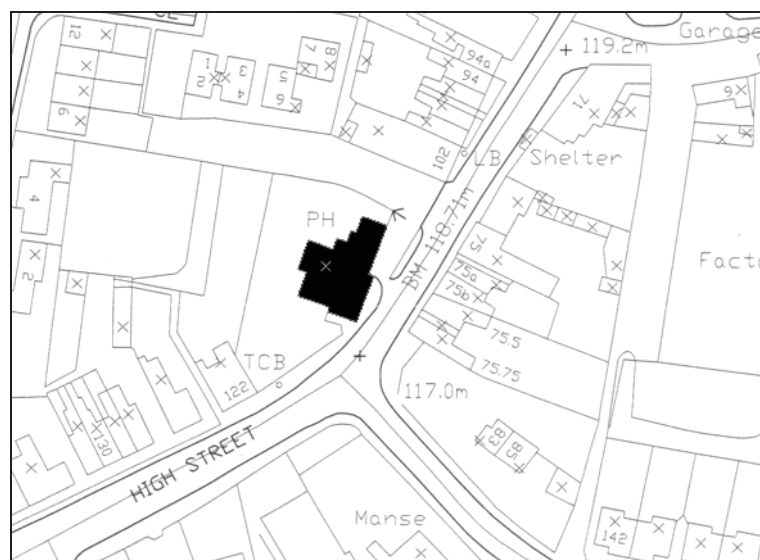


Fig 2 Position of Three Tuns public house (based on a plan supplied by Corporate Architecture Ltd).



Plate 1 Facade, south end looking west



Plate 2 South end, looking north



Plate 3 South end, looking east: junction of cross wing with original house



Plate 4 Rear, looking south



Plate 5 North end, street frontage



Plate 6 Pub sign on street frontage



Plate 7 Street frontage, looking west



Plate 8 South end, front bar looking south



Plate 9 South end, back bar facing west



Plate 10 South end, back bar looking north-east



Plate 11 Corridor, looking from rear to front



Plate 12 Bar, looking south



Plate 13 Stairs down to cellar



Plate 14 Cellar looking towards street frontage



Plate 15 Rear cellar, looking north-east

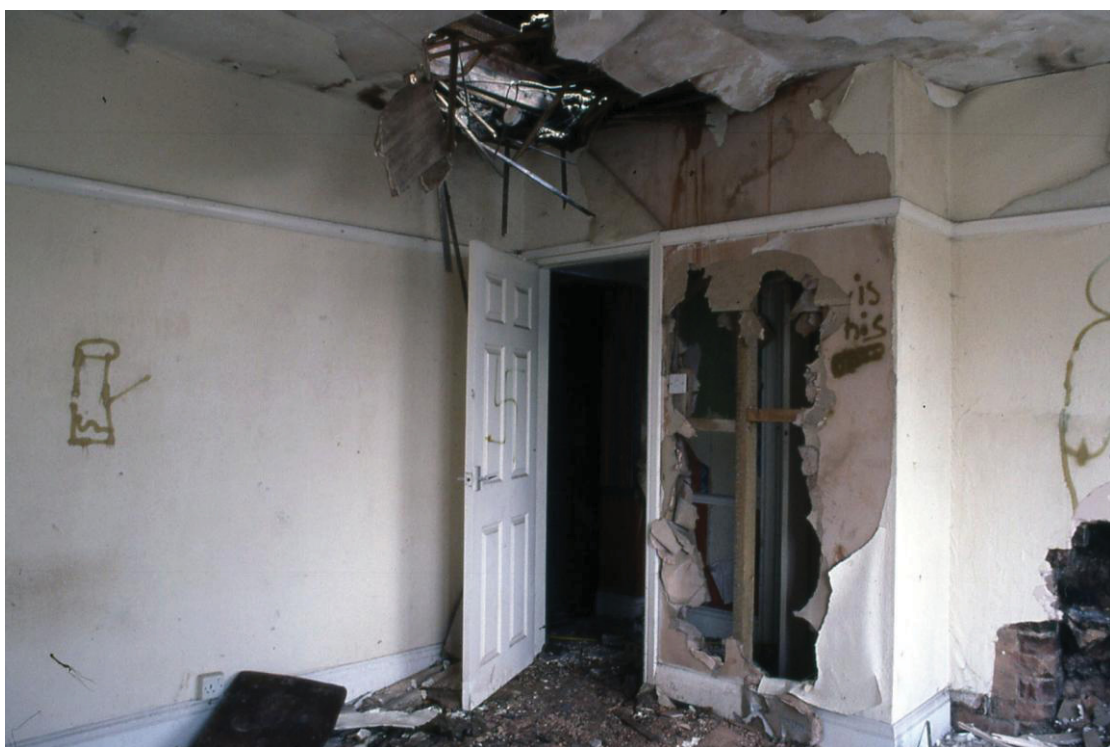


Plate 16 North cross wing, first floor bedroom looking south



Plate 17 South cross wing, first floor bedroom, looking south east



Plate 18 South cross wing, first floor: detail of dumb waiter mechanism



Plate 19 South end, first floor bedroom, looking towards the street



Plate 20 North end, first floor kitchen, looking towards the street