

**An Archaeological 'Strip, Map and
Record' Project
At 116 High Street, Barwell,
Leicestershire
SP 442 966**

David Parker


For: Marble Homes

Checked by

Signed:  ...**Date:** 7.12.2008.

Name: ..Vicki Score.

Approved by

Signed:  **Date:** 7.12.2008.

Name: ...R.J Buckley....

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2008-192
©2008
XA123.2008

CONTENTS

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction.....	1
3.	Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
4.	Historical and Archaeological Background	2
5.	Methodology	2
6.	Project Aims.....	2
7.	Results.....	3
7.	Conclusion	4
8.	Acknowledgements.....	5
9.	Archive.....	5
10.	Bibliography	5
11.	Appendix: Design Specification	7

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location.....	1
Figure 3	Southern trench with ditch in the foreground.....	4

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. The Design Specification.

Archaeological Strip, map & record at 116 High Street, Barwell, Leicestershire, (SP 442 966)

By David Parker

1. Summary

An archaeological strip ,map & record was carried out at 116 High Street, Barwell, Leicestershire (SP 442 966), on the 9th September 2008. This work was carried out on behalf of Marble Homes by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The work involved the controlled supervision of the excavation of three preparatory trenches in advance of housing development. The investigation uncovered modern backfill and one shallow ditch of unknown date. The site archive will be held with Leicestershire County Council Museums Section under accession number: X.A123.2008.

2. Introduction

This document constitutes the archaeological strip ,map & record carried out on land at 116 High Street, Barwell, Leicestershire, (SP 442 966). The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf of Marble Homes by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

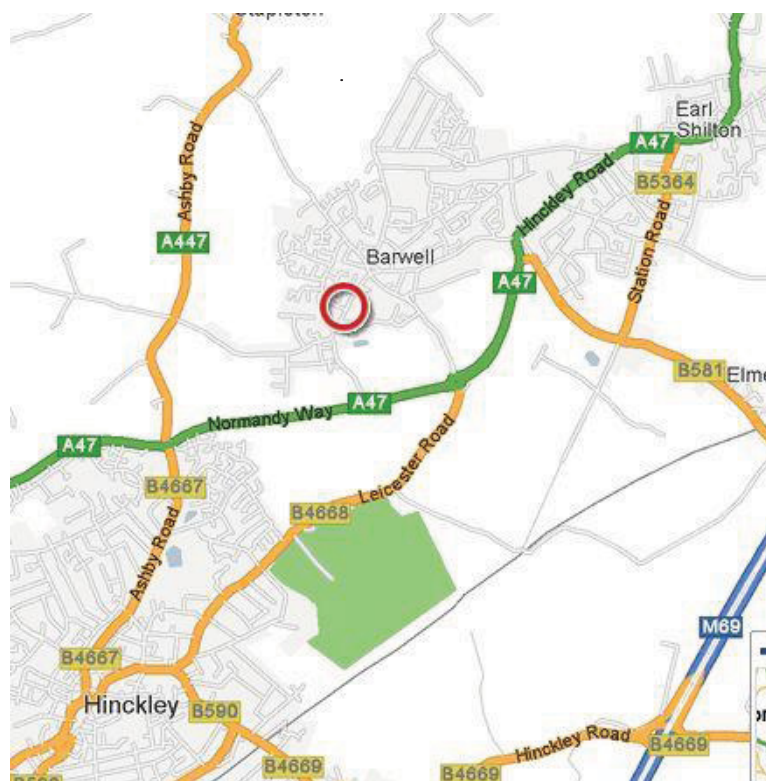


Figure 1 Site Location

© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

3. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies on land to the rear of properties fronting on to the High Street and was formerly occupied by industrial buildings. The site is flat and lies at a height of about 115.6m OD

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Anglian Till with underlying and overlying sand and gravel.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

Archaeological potential (taken from LCC advice email)

‘The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village. Medieval remains were recorded nearby in the form of a hearth and cobbled surface (MLE 2816), occupational debris/kiln site (MLE2802), a fishpond (MLE2820) and the medieval church (MLE2815). In addition, Roman tile was found (MLE7934), indicating nearby Roman settlement. Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.’

5. Methodology

All archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

The project was to involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist followed by archaeological excavation and recording of affected remains as necessary. In order to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, three initial trial trenches were excavated initially by JCB 3X mechanical excavator using a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. The aim of this was to determine whether a full site strip under archaeological control would be required or whether groundworks could proceed as originally planned.

6. Project Aims

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.

7 Results



Figure 2 Trench location. Not to scale (50m grid squares, plan supplied by developer)

Three trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision at the locations marked above. These differed slightly to the trench locations detailed in the specification (see appendix 1) due to the presence of sewers and hard standing concrete slabs left over from the demolition. All three of the trenches revealed a modern rubble layer covering the site to a depth of 0.25m- 0.48m. This rubble overlay a brown silty-clay subsoil which varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.8m. While all three trenches were stripped down to the underlying natural only the one to the west showed any archaeological interest. The majority of this trench was truncated by the foundations of one of the buildings formerly standing on this site. However towards the southern end of this trench a shallow ditch was observed. The ditch was filled with a dark brown silty clay. It appeared to be U-shaped but was highly truncated by modern drainage. The remains of this ditch lay at a depth of approximately 1.2m below ground level.



Figure 3 Southern trench with ditch in the foreground

7 Conclusion

The original brief required this intervention to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains and to ensure that they would be adequately recorded prior to being damaged or destroyed. For the northern and eastern trenches it was established that there were no archaeological remains present. The third trench (to the centre of the area, Fig.3) did reveal the presence of an undated ditch. This ditch was found to be in an area already disturbed by ground works at a depth below the formation level of the proposed development. The ditch also appeared to be running through an area of the development that has a lesser impact on the ground beneath it, namely the area of proposed garages. Based on these findings it was considered that the proposed development was likely to have little or no archaeological impact, therefore the project was terminated.

8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the client, J Singh for his support and cooperation with this project.

9 Archive

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Three trench recording sheets

3 digital photographs (on CD Rom); photographic index

The site archive will be deposited with Leicester County Council Museums Section under accession number: X.A123.2008

10 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)

David Parker
Senior Archaeological Supervisor
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: Dp53@le.ac.uk

15/10/08

Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record project to the rear of 116 High Street, Barwell, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	David Parker
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Industrial
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK
Start/end dates of field work	9th September 2008
Archive Recipient	Leicester County Council
Study Area *	0.1ha

11. Appendix: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Barwell, 116 High Street

Planning Application: 06/01196/FUL

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

For: J. Singh

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 strip plan and record, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the erection of a number of residential dwellings at the above site.

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 work involves a strip plan and record exercise within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in an email of 7/12/2006 to the planning authority from the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.2 Archaeological potential (taken from LCC advice email)

2.1 'The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village. Medieval remains were recorded nearby in the form of a hearth and cobbled surface (MLE 2816), occupational debris/kiln site (MLE2802), a fishpond (MLE2820) and the medieval church (MLE2815). In addition, Roman tile was found (MLE7934), indicating nearby Roman settlement. Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the proposed development.'

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation:

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 removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. Initially it is proposed to open three initial trial trenches to assess the depth of topsoil/overburden and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified in the initial trial trenches, and found to be 0.15m or less below proposed formation, the areas of the site in which groundworks are to take place will be stripped by machine down to the top of the archaeology. This work will be undertaken under archaeological control and supervision and will be followed by a programme of excavation and recording, using additional personnel as necessary.

4.3 In the event that archaeological remains of uncertain significance are located in the initial trenches (e.g. undated post-hole/pit), further trenching may be necessary, at the discretion of the site supervisor, to clarify their nature and significance and determine the need for a full topsoil strip.

4.4 If no archaeological deposits are identified within the trenches, or the depth of overburden is greater than 0.15m, there will be no requirement for the site to be stripped to a level below proposed formation and subsequent groundworks will be subject to an intermittent watching brief.

4.5 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

4.9 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 and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.10 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 and Leicestershire County Council.

4.11 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, Heritage Services 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, 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 prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation 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 investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

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 (revised 2007) 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)

Richard Buckley
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: rjb16@le.ac.uk

11 July 2008



Fig. 2 Development layout showing initial trial trench locations

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Barwell, 116 High Street

Planning Application: 06/01196/FUL

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

For: J. Singh

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample). It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve overburden stripping by JCB 3C or similar during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 1.0 – 1.2m. Following stripping the exposed deposits will be examined with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and archaeological features will be excavated. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and safety and the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manuals, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

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

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 1.2m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear 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.

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 Weils 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.

2.6 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

10.07.2008