


**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at the Moat House, Appleby Magna,
Leicestershire.
(NGR; 316 098)**

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Checked by Project Manager

Signed:  Date: 1 February 2007

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

For Mr Jon Dunkelman

An Archaeological Watching Brief during Ground-Works at the Moat House, 29, Mawbys Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. (NGR; 316 098)

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at The Moat House 29, Mawbys Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. (NGR 316 098) during ground works associated with the development of a new bathroom. The site lies within the centre of Appleby Magna along Mawbys Lane, immediately south-east of the village church. To the south of the Moat House are medieval fish ponds and to the west, a square dovecote. The watching brief revealed the foundations of a structure pre-dating the 16th century brick wall of the existing building. Minimal damage was done to an underlying archaeological demolition layer and none to the in-situ wall by the newly excavated pipe trench. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services with accession number X.A 15.2007.

Introduction

An Archaeological watching brief was carried out by University Of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Mr Jon Dunkelman during groundworks in advance of the creation of a bathroom at The Moat House, 29, Mawbys Lane, Appleby Magna Leicestershire.

Archaeological work was required as a condition of the planning permission granted by NW Leicestershire District Council. Prior to the watching brief, the 1960s concrete flooring and a Victorian quarry tile floor were removed.

Background

The site lies to the South-East of the village church and is bounded by footpaths to the West and South. The present building is situated on a raised platform, with a moat on three sides, that on the fourth (western) side having been filled in. The present timber-framed building dates from the sixteenth century, whilst the stone gatehouse is earlier. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 155 Indicates that the village lies on the border of different underlying geology, but it is likely to consist of marl with bands of sandstone. The development area is situated within the north-eastern part of the building in the old bathroom.

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. Recording of these archaeological deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Standard and Guidance for *Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

An archaeologist visited the site on the 14th of December 2006 and ground-works associated with the development were observed.

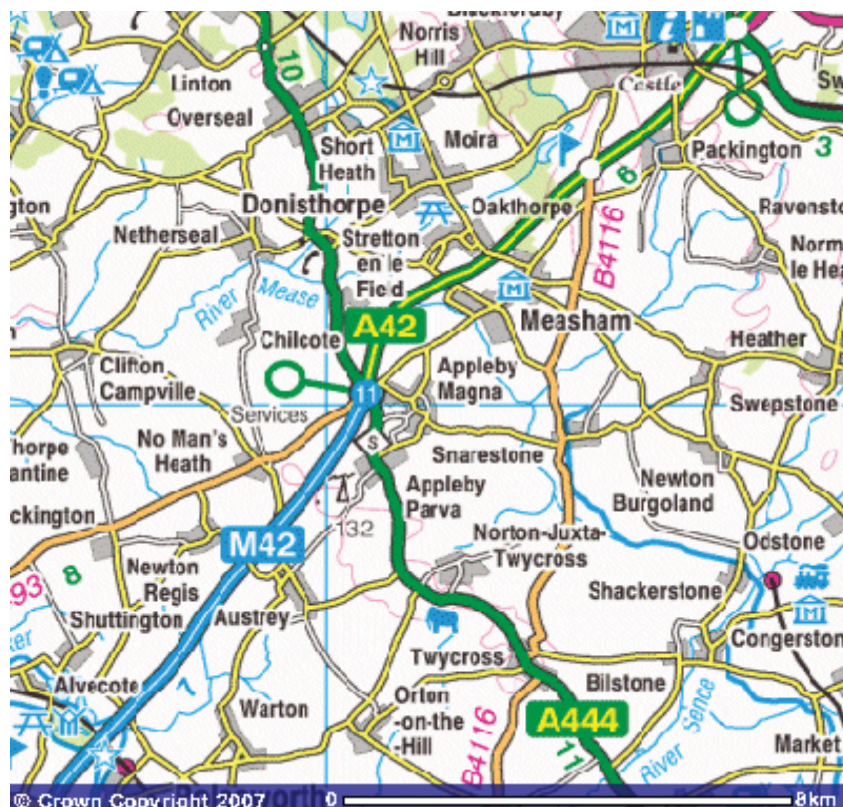


Figure 1: Location map in North-West Leicestershire

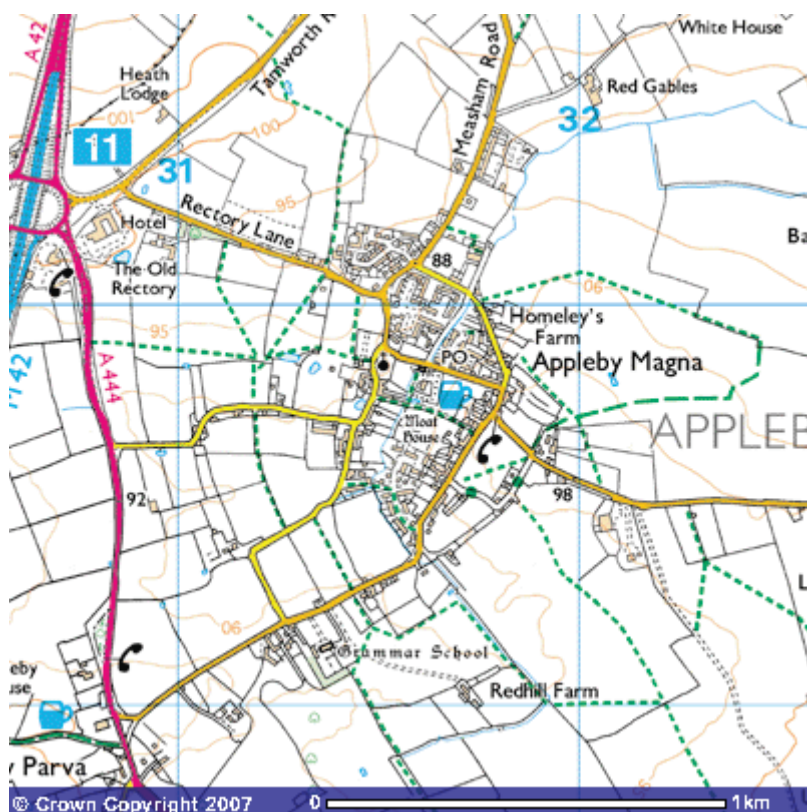


Figure 2: Appleby Magna showing Moat House

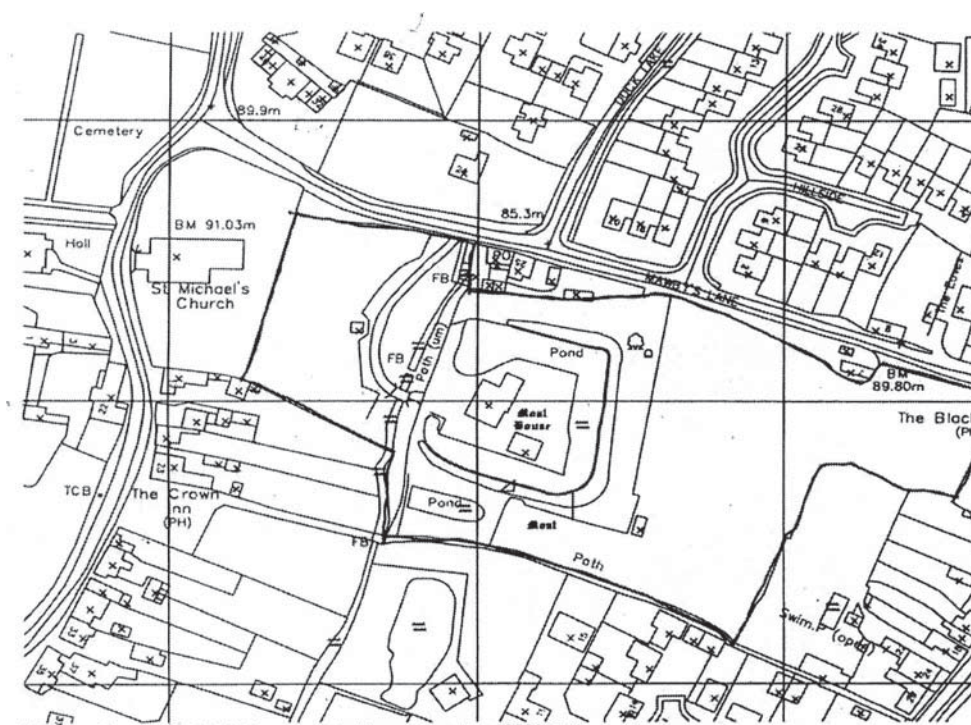


Figure 3: Site location. Appleby Magna. Approx. 1:2500



Figure 4: Ground floor plan showing location of bathroom (not to scale)

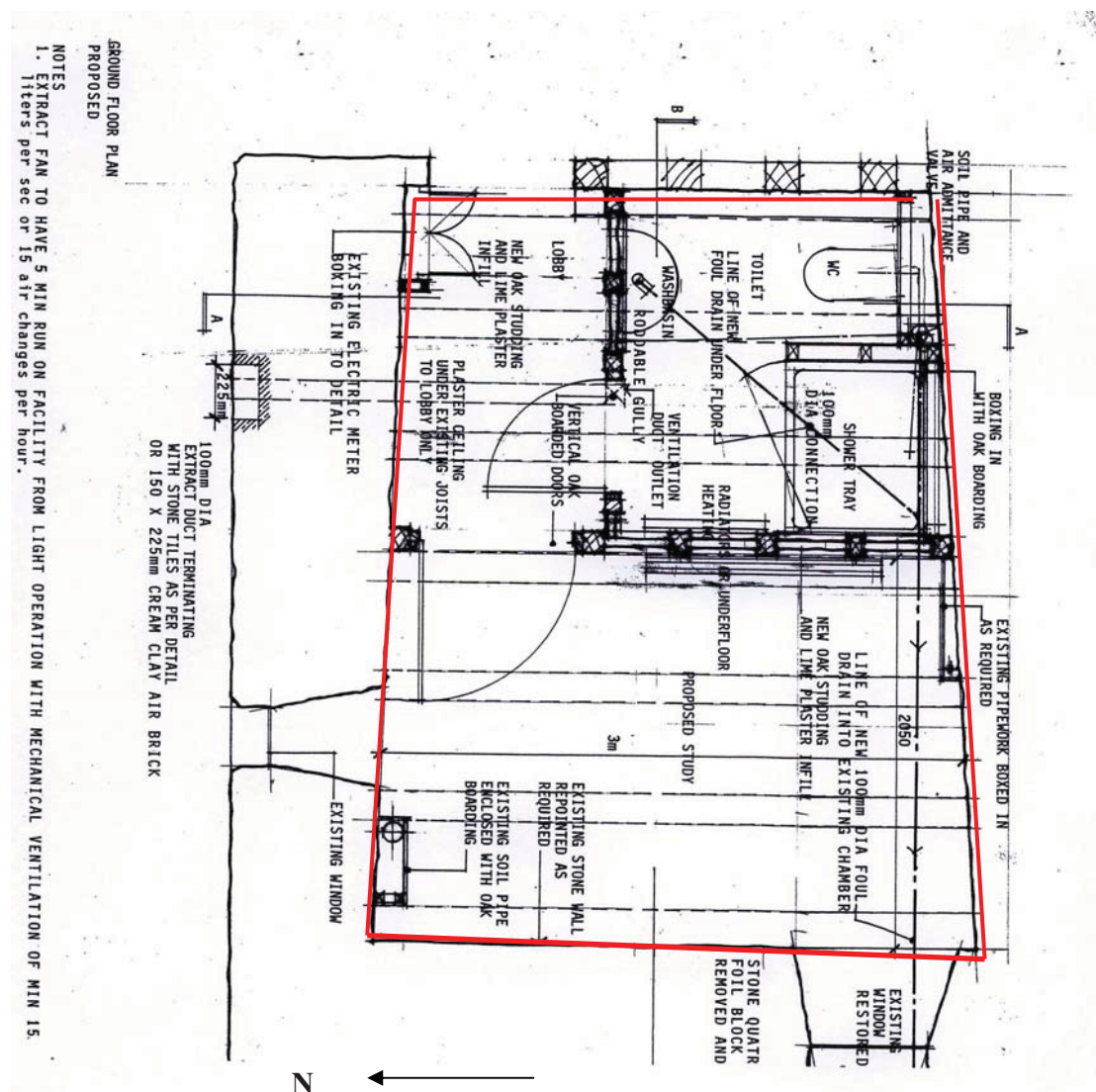


Figure 5: Plan of proposed alterations to bathroom (not to scale). Red line indicates extents of plan in Fig. 6.

Results

The site was visited on the 14th of December 2006 and the hand excavation of a pipe trench was observed. The visibility was slightly impeded by artificial light within the area of development on the north-eastern side of the building. The pipe trench ran parallel with the south wall of the room, and forked at its eastern end. It was approximately 0.30m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. Following the removal of the Victorian quarry tile floor, a mixed light reddish-brown layer was revealed (001). This consisted of roughly equal proportions of brick, coal flecks, mortar and clay patches within a loamy matrix. The layer extended the length and width of the room, approximately 4.0m by 2.80m. The maximum depth to the re-deposited natural was 0.50m. This context probably represented a bedding layer for the Victorian clay quarry tile floor. Apart from the pipe trench (see figure 6) only approximately 0.05m was excavated which still revealed the same context.

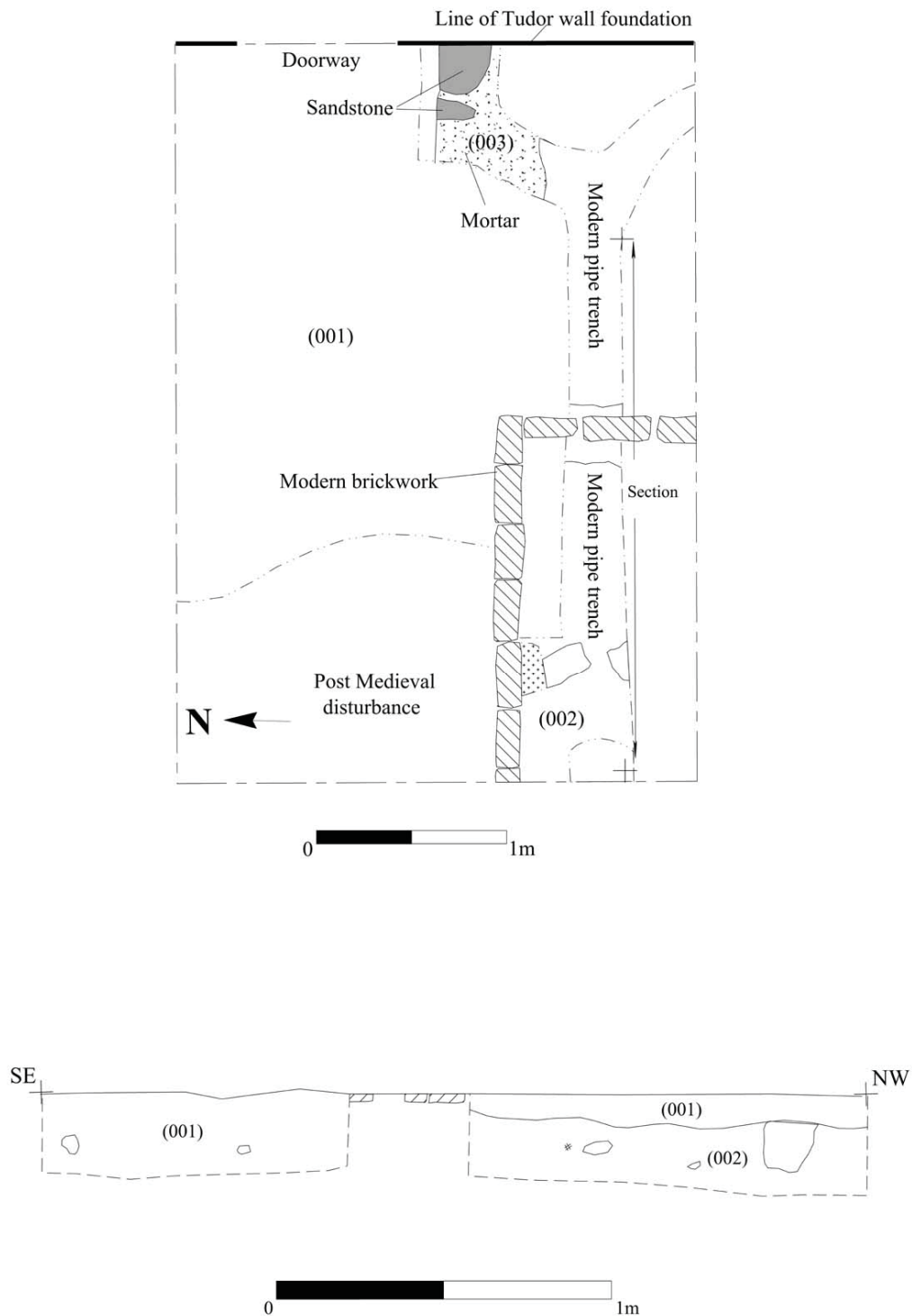


Figure 6: Plan of archaeological features observed (top) and longitudinal section of pipe trench (bottom)

At the south-west corner of the room, a small amount of rubble was found where the excavation of the trench began. The rubble consisted of sandstone shoddies¹ (3 rocks

¹ 'Shoddies' Dressed stone. Stones cut into uniform shapes of different thickness.

located) measuring from 0.25m-0.40m. These were included within a fairly clean silty clay loam matrix (002). This was dark orangish /greenish brown in colour containing sparse charcoal flecks, and occasional sub-rounded pebbles measuring up to 0.05m. The layer extended up to 1.20m from the south-western corner by a width of 0.30m which was limited by the width of the new pipe trench. The depth of the context was excavated to 0.30m which was the required depth of the pipe trench. Both this layer and the inclusive rocks lay directly below a former lime mortar support (see fig.6) for a 1960s toilet block. This did not seem to disturb the underlying context, however on the other side of the former toilet mortar support, context (002) was no longer visible. Just below the sandstone shoddies, two sherds of medieval pottery were found.

Work then began from the upstanding 16th timber framed wall with brick plinth on the eastern side of the room. Approximately 0.05m of (001) was removed which revealed in situ sandstone shoddies (003). They appeared to run in a west-east direction. The pipe trench revealed part of the width of the feature 0.40m away from the Tudor brick wall. Here 0.60m of the width of the wall was revealed showing extensive mortar. Lengthways from the brick wall, the excavated area was 0.56m. The stones measured an average 0.25m across with a thickness of 0.15m. Only an L-shaped part of wall 003 was revealed within the pipe trench, therefore its full width could not be determined. Two courses of stone were visible which appeared to lie and cut into re-deposited natural (004). This context was light reddish brown in colour and consisted of silty clay with occasional coal flecks. Only an area measuring 0.30m by 0.30m of this context was revealed.

The medieval pottery

D. Sawday

The pottery, two sherds, weighing 140 grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The pottery, in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC2, probably dated from the later fourteenth or fifteenth centuries (see appendix 1).

Conclusion

The watching brief revealed that despite Victorian and 1960s improvements, in-situ stones, possibly forming a wall foundation run under the present 16th-century wall. This may be contemporary with the original stone moat house

Appleby Magna is entered under Derbyshire in the Domesday Book. Land was owned there by Countess Godeva and Henry de Ferieres. (Clarke, S., 2000., p2) There is however no listed mention of a moat house in the Domesday Book for Leicestershire. (Morris, J., 1976, txt 11.2).

The original moat house is believed to have been erected in 1166. This was occupied by the de Appleby family until their departure in 1560. The main house was demolished and a 'new' timber-framed extension (Walkers Hall) was added (Serafini, R., 1976 & Clarke, S., 2000, p.2). Despite the limited window into underlying deposits provided by the newly excavated pipe trench, the evidence seems to suggest a west-east wall 003 running down the middle of the present room, although only a short stretch of it was exposed.

Associated with the possible wall and evident at the south-west corner, it is possible that context (002) represents a demolition layer. Such could be indicated by the sandstone rubble found within the soil matrix. The pottery found near the surface is CC2-Chilvers Coton ware 2 dated to the later 14th-15th Century (Appendix 1). This layer may therefore pre-date the present timber framed range. The demolition layer appears to have been cut away in places by later disturbance. Re-deposited natural was evident around the possible wall and may represent upcast from the moat to create a raised platform for the house. Despite the limited disturbance, the pipe trench has revealed important evidence of an earlier structural phase.

Bibliography

Clarke, S., 2000. An archaeological excavation & Evaluation on land at Rectory Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. ULAS Report no.2000/49 page2

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 166-213.

Morris, J. ed., 1979. Domesday Book: no 22: Leicestershire. Phillimore, Chichester

Serafini, R., 1976. The Leicester Advertiser, The Tragic Story of Joyce de Appleby, after the de-Applebys: Leases & Conveyances 1598 to 1829 in http://www.applebymagna.org.uk/appleby_history/moat_house.htm

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment team with accession number X.A 15. 2007 and consists of the following:

- 1 Watching Brief Recording Sheet
- 1 Roll of 36 exposure black and white film
- 4 Context recording sheets
- 1 Plan of the excavation area (scale 1:20)
- 1 Section of the pipe trench (scale 1:10)
- 2 sherds of medieval pottery

Acknowledgments

ULAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Dunkelman for their help and co-operation. James Patrick undertook the watching brief. Richard Buckley was the project manager.

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Plate 1: View of wall 003. Looking South



Plate 2: View of wall 003 running under 16th-century wall. looking east



Plate 3: View of brick foundation to 16th-century timber-framed wall prior to excavation of pipe trench. View east



Plate 4: Investigation of pipe trench



Plate 5: View of pipe trench running to south-east corner of room



Plate 6: The north-west corner prior to excavation of pipe trench

APPENDIX 1

The medieval pottery from a watching brief at Appleby Magna, Leicestershire.

D. Sawday

The pottery, two sherds, weighing 140 grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The pottery, in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC2, probably dated from the later fourteenth or fifteenth centuries.

Bibliography

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Site/Parish: Appleby Magna Accession No/ Doc Ref: Material: pot Site Type: moated manor house	Submitter: J. Patrick Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 25.1.07 Method of Recovery: watching brief
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Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Weight grams	Comments
2 – demolition layer associated with wall	CC2 – Chilvers Coton ware 2	2	140	Flared, wide mouthed bowl rim, with pronounced internal flange, splash of brown glaze internally, heavily knife trimmed & sooted externally, ?later 14 th – 15th C.

APPENDIX 2

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Design Specification for an archaeological watching brief at:
Moat House, 29 Mawbys Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire DE12 7AA
NGR: 316 098 (centre)**

National Monument No. 17061

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document constitutes a written scheme of archaeological investigation which ULAS proposes to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any potential damage to buried archaeological deposits or upstanding remains which may be caused by excavation works associated with the installation of a new ground floor bathroom at the Moat House, Appleby Magna. The work is to be carried in accordance with conditions placed on the Scheduled Monument Consent by the Department of Culture Media and Sport, following advice from the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage.

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

The consent specifies that the works are to be 'undertaken under the overall archaeological supervision of a reputable archaeological contractor'. The watching brief will cover all works which have the potential to damage buried archaeological remains – i.e. excavation to create a formation level for the new floor and from the installation of services.

2.2 Background

2.2.1 The following is taken from Pevsner 1984

'MOAT HOUSE Appleby Magna. Of the extensive medieval manor house (Nichols mentions a hall, chapel, etc.) the moat, blocked only in front of the house, can be traced; so can footings of buildings near it on the E side, and evidence of a cobbled yard stretching beneath the present house. The gatehouse, the only upstanding survival, indicates the status of the original buildings and must once have been exceedingly monumental and forbidding. In the c 16 the present timber-framed house was

built a few feet E of it. The whole is now an eminently picturesque ensemble.

The gatehouse is of stone, two storeys, with an arch centrally to the w. (The back wall is missing.) Over the arch a quatrefoil frieze with shields. First-floor windows relatively symmetrically arranged, of two and three lights, arched and cusped. Slits below. Low chute from the side. Said to have been rebuilt c. 1530, it has since been decapitated - see the broken string course and incomplete newel stair. There was originally a tower over the entrance. Timber-framed gables rebuilt in brick.

The timber-framed house is joined to the gatehouse by a passage of c 19 brick. Its S wall is on axis with the gate passage, the angle filled by a brick addition of 1855 (said to replace a jettied upper storey, for which there is internal evidence). Close-studded framing, i.e. not later than the late c 16. Many timbers appear to have been salvaged, possibly from earlier buildings on the site. Two rooms on each floor divided by a central stone stack. Above the N room fireplace, a frieze of undecipherable, crudely geometric and figurative carvings and lettering. Former oven on the E wall. Upstairs, four-centred fireplaces built later against the stone stack. Moulded beams throughout the ground floor.

W of the house a square stone building, heightened in brick, said to be a DOVECOTE though it lacks nesting boxes'

(Pevsner 1984, 74).

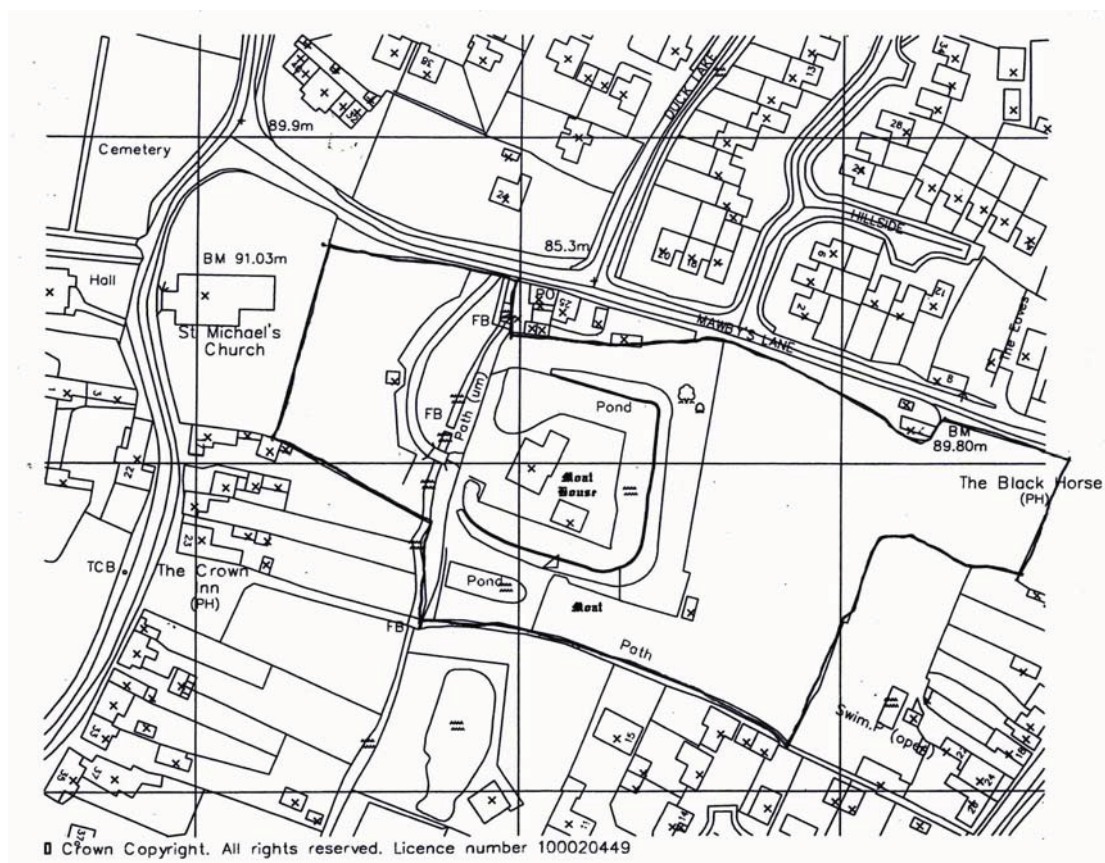


Fig. 1: Site Location

The proposed works will include the replacement of an existing floor and the insertion of a new shower, toilet and basin with associated drainage works.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of groundworks by the client's contractors to create a formation for the proposed floor and for the excavation of service trenches:

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 recover any artefacts, worked stone and other building materials from the fabric of the walls.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, 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.

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. The Client, Leicestershire County Council, English Heritage and 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 the Client, English Heritage and Leicestershire County Council.

4.7 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief which will be affected by the proposals, the archaeologist will have the power to halt the works. The Client, the County Planning Archaeologist and English Heritage will be informed immediately in order that discussions can take place with a view to securing the preservation of such remains *in situ*, or for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to mitigate any damage that will take place.

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 Some 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 Leicester City Council, 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.

6.4. Any disk-based data will be provided for the Leicestershire SMR.

6.5 ULAS is participating in the Archaeology Data Service and National Monuments Record OASIS project and will complete the appropriate OASIS forms upon completion of the report

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. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded on to the Archaeology Data Service website as part of the OASIS project.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence in December 2006.

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 employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

11. Bibliography

Pevsner, N., 1984 *The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland*. Penguin: Harmondsworth

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