

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on land to the rear of 11 Bridge Street,
Langham, Rutland.**

NGR: SK 8426 1112

Andrew Hyam

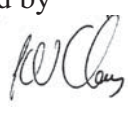
For: A J Stimson Limited

Checked by

Signed:  **Date:** 20-04-2009

Name:Vicki Score

Approved by

Signed:  **Date:** 20-04-2009

Name: ...Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2009-041

©2009

OAKRM: 2009.4

CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	1
Objectives	2
Methodology	2
Results.....	2
Discussion	3
Archive.....	3
Publication	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
Bibliography	3
Appendix 1. Figures.....	5
Appendix 2. OASIS information	9

FIGURES

Figure 1. Langham village location.	5
Figure 2. First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map	6
Figure 3. Developer's plans.	7
Figure 4. Site from Bridge Street after topsoil strip. Facing north west.....	8
Figure 5. Site after excavation of foundations. Facing South east.....	8

An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of 11 Bridge Street, Langham, Rutland. NGR:SK 8426 1112

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 16th of March 2009 and the 1st of April 2009 in advance of the construction of a single domestic dwelling on land at Bridge Street in Langham. The development site, covering approximately 400m², lies within the historic settlement core of the medieval village and in a former garden with no evidence of recent building activity on it. The results of the initial topsoil strip were observed, followed by the excavation of the house foundations. The excavations revealed that approximately 0.3m of light yellowish brown silty clay subsoil covered a light orange brown sandy silty clay natural substratum. No archaeological deposits or features were present within the exposed development area.

Records will be deposited with Rutland County Museum under Accession Number OAKRM: 2009.4

Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning), para 30, this document forms the report for an archaeological watching brief on land at 11 Bridge Street, Langham, Rutland, NGR SK 8426 1112. A single detached house and garage is to be constructed in the centre of the site which until recently formed part of the large garden of the adjacent property to the south east. The archaeological work has been commissioned by the developer A. J. Stimson.

Langham is a planned village, which is still evident from its early street layout, and was first recorded in 1202. The development site lies to the west of the village church and the presence of a Grade II listed building on the adjoining property to the south east indicates the potential presence of medieval and post medieval archaeology. In view of this the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the local planning officer, recommended that a programme of archaeological work take place during the development.

Background

The village of Langham lies approximately 2.5km to the north west of Oakham, the county town of Rutland (fig. 1). The size of Langham has increased considerably in the last fifty years with a variety of piecemeal developments taking place both within the village core and around its outskirts. Very few plots now remain undeveloped and the development site in Bridge Street represents one of the few remaining open areas within the heart of the village. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium over

sandy mudstone. The site and surrounding area is generally flat and lies at an average height of approximately 130m above OD.

Little archaeological work appears to have taken place in the immediate locality of the site although as mentioned above there was a reasonable potential for surviving archaeological remains. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area shows the site as open ground with the now listed building located along the south eastern boundary (fig.2). The listed building sits end-on to the road giving the impression of properties with houses at the front and long strips of land behind although no such property boundaries are now in evidence. It would seem that when the first OS map was produced much of the centre of Langham was open land or orchards.

The development site has cut the open space belonging to the adjacent property into two similarly sized pieces. A detached two storey house with four bedrooms and integral garage is to be built in the centre of the plot with a drive leading out to the road (figs.3 and 4).

Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or features.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

Initially the footprint of the house and driveway was stripped of vegetation and topsoil to expose the subsoil beneath. The resulting spoil heap and exposed ground were then thoroughly scanned for finds. At a later date the foundation trenches for the house were excavated using a JCB 3X mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket on the back actor. All spoil was scanned for finds and the trenches examined for features.

All deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and digital colour photographs. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2001) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

The initial vegetation and topsoil strip took place a number of days before the foundation excavations and involved removing approximately 0.2 to 0.3m of topsoil across the entire footprint of the house and driveway. This left a thin skim of topsoil with small patches of light yellow brown subsoil showing through in places. The spoil was inspected for finds and the exposed area carefully studied for finds or possible features. A small number of modern hard fired and brightly glazed pottery sherds and

large fragments of plant pot were observed but not retained. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed at this stage.

The second site visit, on the 1st of April 2009, was to observe the foundation trenches for the house. Vehicle activity had by now blurred the interface between topsoil and subsoil but it was clear that the subsoil depth was approximately 0.3m across the whole site. Beneath this was the natural substratum of light orange brown slightly sandy silty clay with a number of sub-rounded and sub-angular stones dispersed throughout (fig. 5). This appears to correspond with the OS description of the superficial alluvial deposit noted in this area. On the northern side of the plot the presence of trees meant that the foundations needed to be deeper. The increase in trench depth showed the alluvial deposit to be between 0.25 and 0.35m deep on top of similar, but slightly brighter orange, material but without any stones in. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the foundation trench sides or base.

Discussion

Despite the promising location of the site no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during this watching brief. The first edition OS map shows a number of open spaces within the village which may indicate a continuation of a long tradition of small scale cultivation or animal enclosures rather than habitation.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

2 pro-forma watching brief forms (with photo record included),

1 contact sheet of digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

The archive is to be held by Rutland County Museums under accession number OAKRM: 2009.4

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by A R Hyam. The project was managed by V. Score.

Bibliography

IfA, 2001, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

IfA, 2006, *Codes of Conduct*

Leicestershire County Council. 2009 *A Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (an Intensive Watching Brief) at Land to the Rear of 11 Bridge Street, Langham, Rutland.*

Appendix 1. Figures



Figure 1. Langham village location.

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10009495.

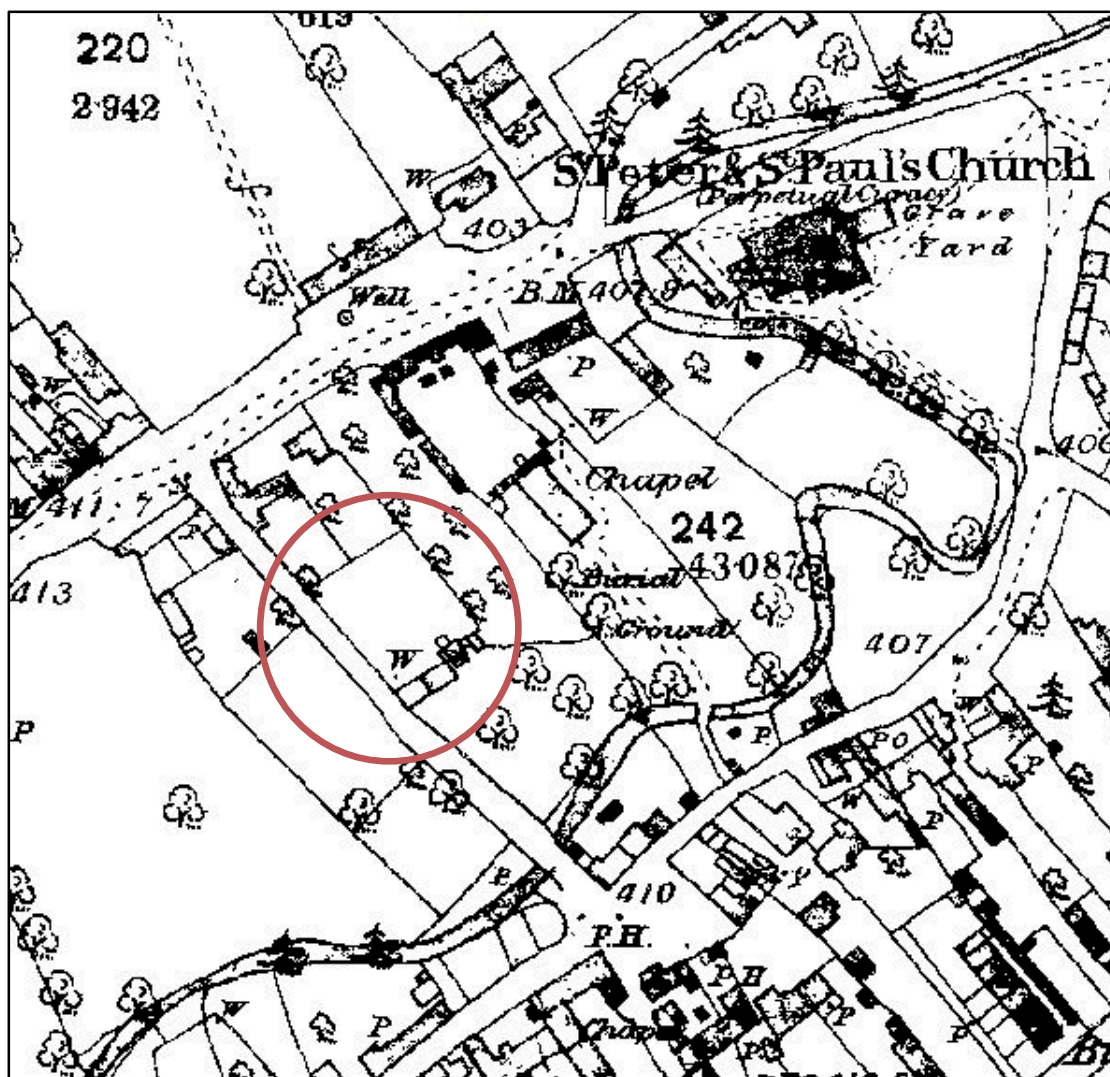


Figure 2. First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10009495.

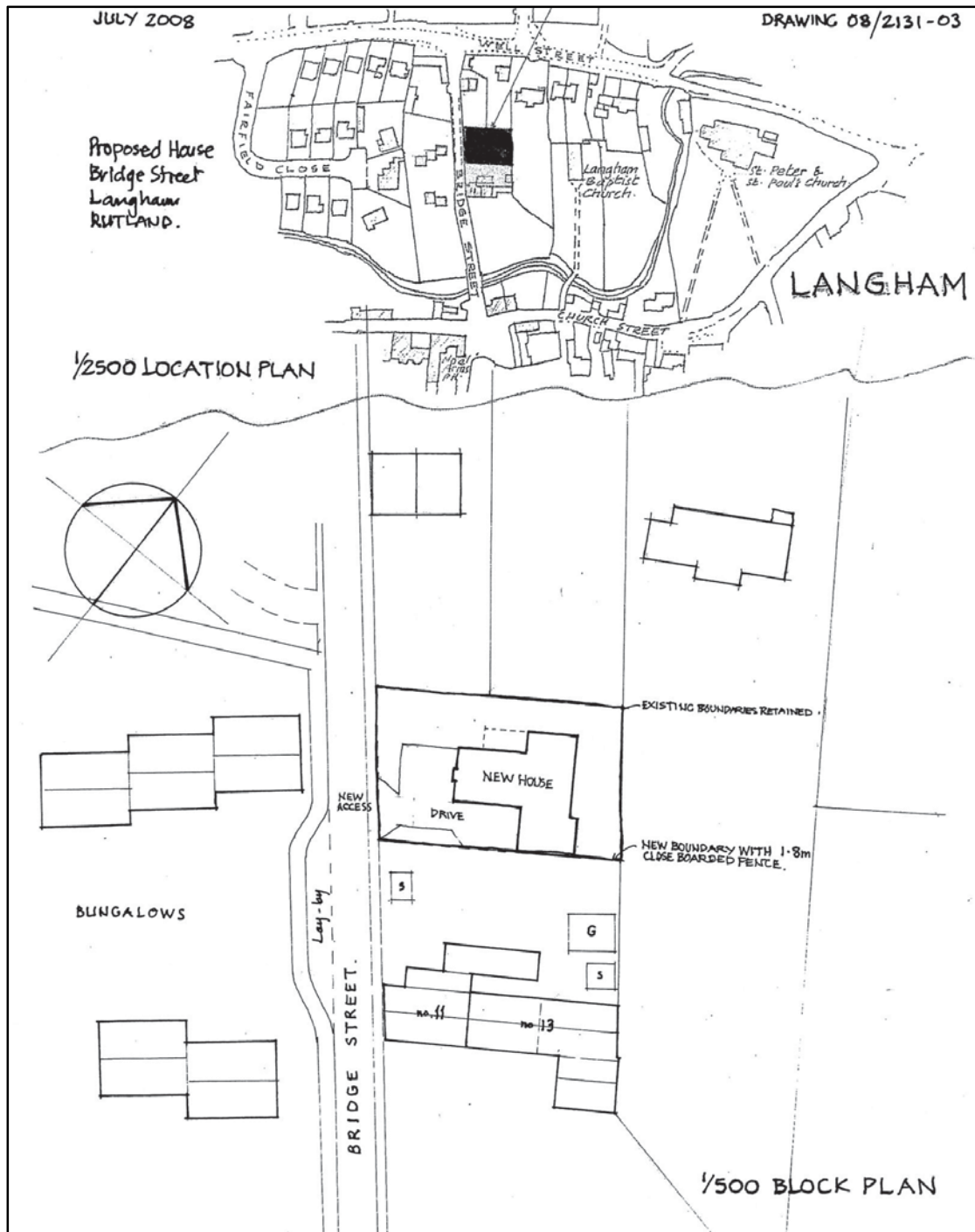


Figure 3. Developer's plans.



Figure 4. Site from Bridge Street after topsoil strip. Facing north west.



Figure 5. Site after excavation of foundations. Facing South east.

Appendix 2. OASIS information

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	11 Bridge Street, Langham, Rutland
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	V Score
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK8426 1112
Start/end dates of field work	16.03.09 to 1.04.09
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Museums
Study Area	Approx 400m ²