


**An Archaeological watching brief at
Land to the rear of 4, the Stockwell,
Wymeswold, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK60302341


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For: NCD Properties

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ULAS Report Number 2009-079

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X.A139.2009

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An Archaeological watching brief at Land to the rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire. NGR: SK60302341

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, NGR: SK60302341 on the 25th June 2009 on behalf of NCO Properties. Groundwork for the construction of a new residential dwelling was observed. No significant archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession code XA139.2009.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken on the 25th June 2009, for NCO Properties of groundwork in advance of the construction of a residential dwelling to the rear of 4, the Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, NGR: SK60302341 (Fig. 1). The Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended archaeological attendance (an intensive watching brief) to be undertaken during soil stripping and groundwork for footings, landscaping and services etc. in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (An Intensive Watching brief)* from LCC HNET (hereinafter the *Brief*).



Figure 1: Site location 1: 1250

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2. Site description, topology and geology

The site lies within the village of Wymeswold (Fig. 1). The land formerly contained a barn/ stable block attached to the adjacent property Hill House. The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Mudstone (Barnby Member to the west and Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation to the east) overlain with Glaciofluvial and Head Deposits (British Geological Survey of Great Britain) of orange sandy gravels and clay.

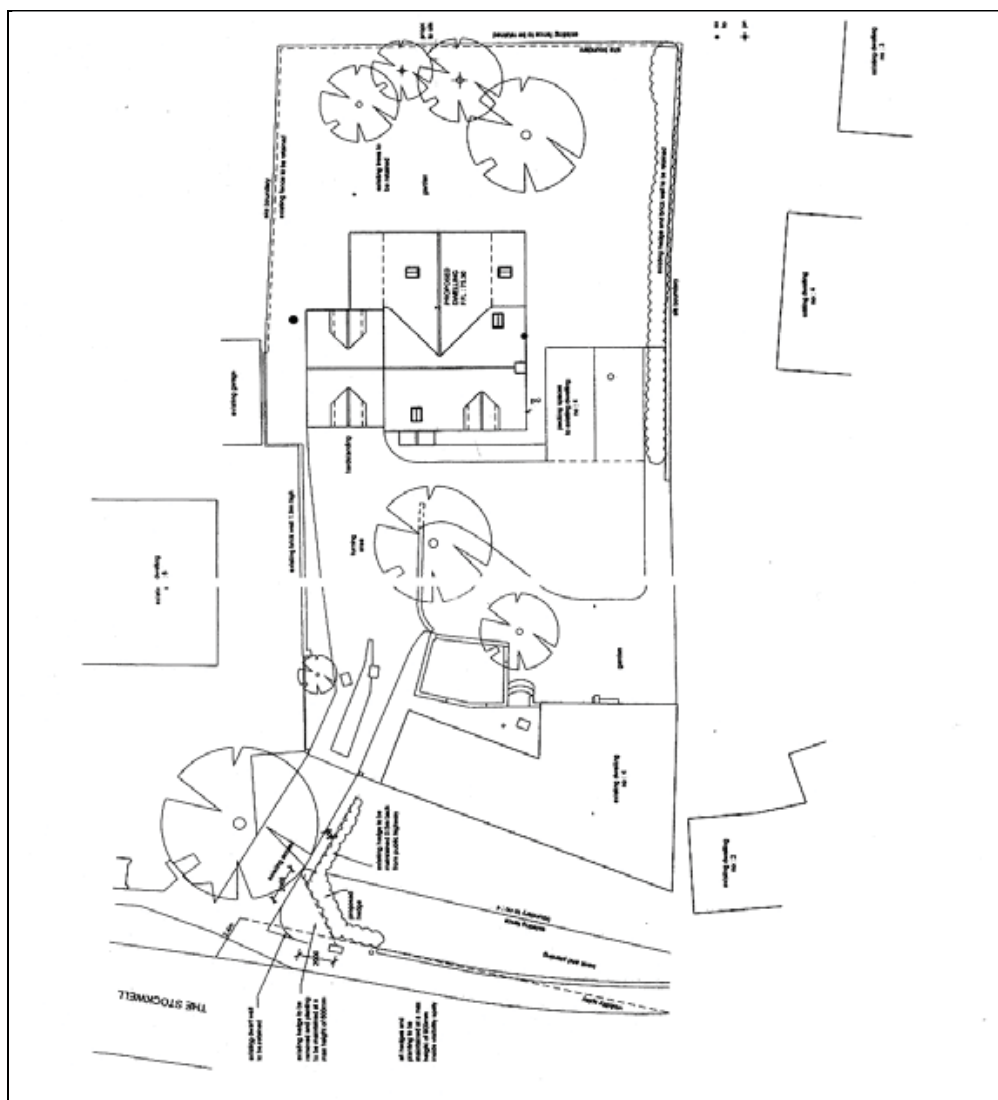


Figure 2: Site plan of proposed development (supplied by client).

3. Archaeological and historic background

The development area has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). It lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village adjacent to the medieval church and there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains might be affected by the development.

4. Aims and objectives

Through archaeological monitoring of groundwork:

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

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2001).

The stripping of overburden and other groundworks were observed. Spoil was also examined for artefacts.

5. Results

Following the initial site inspection, trenches were opened with a tracked one man mini digger. The trench sections were observed in order to identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and a photographic record made. The foundation trenches were of approximately 1m deep and 0.45m wide. The front of the new dwelling was placed over the foundations of the former structure located on the site which had been demolished prior to attendance. Consequently the ground in this area was a mixed made up ground of disturbed modern overburden and in situ old foundations. Where the soil profile survived at the rear of the new residential dwelling 0.3m of clean sterile topsoil were observed over 0.4m of light brown silty clay subsoil. This sat directly over compacted yellow grey clay and orange sandy gravel at an average depth of 0.4m from the surface. This was interpreted as the natural substratum and was apparent for the full depth of each foundation trench. Inspection of the spoil on site was unrevealing.

6. Conclusion

Archaeological observation of foundation trenches and other ground works has confirmed the absence of significant surviving archaeological deposits within the area observed. The natural geological substratum comprised homogenous sterile clay in the south-east of the site and orange sandy gravel elsewhere, present at a uniform depth within all foundation trenches. Previous reduction of the ground levels during construction of the former stable/barn may have reduced the topsoil and subsoil within the area of the footprint of the building. Combined with subsequent construction of the former barn foundations, this activity may have removed any surviving archaeological deposits.

7. Archive

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report, 1 watching brief recording forms, 1 cd of 15 digital photos, 1 contact sheet of 15 digital photos, 1 photo index form. It will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, under accession number XA139.2009.

8. Acknowledgements and publication

I would like to thank the client for their help and cooperation on site. The project was managed by Vicki Score and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Dan Stone, both of ULAS.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index.

9. Bibliography

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| IfA, 2001 | <i>Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.</i> |
| IfA, 2006 | <i>Code of Conduct</i> |
| LCC (26-02-09) | <i>Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (an intensive watching brief) at Land Rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire.</i> |

10. Oasis Information

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological watching brief at Land to the rear of 4, the Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire
Project Type	Intensive Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Daniel Stone
Previous/Future work	Residential dwelling
Current Land Use	Stable/ barn and garden
Development Type	Residential,
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK60302341
Start/end dates of field work	25 th and 26 th June 2009
Archive Recipient	Leicester County Council
Study Area	0.5 Ha

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Figure 3: View of Site (looking south-west)



Figure 4: Working shot of foundation trench excavation

11. Appendix. Design Specification

Design Specification for Archaeological Investigation (INTENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF)

*Proposed development at Land to the rear of 4, The Stockwell,
Wymeswold, Leicestershire*

NGR: SK60302341

Client: NCO Properties

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

1. Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a design specification for a phase of archaeological investigation and recording at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site.

1.2 An Intensive Watching Brief is defined by the IfA as having an archaeologist 'present during sensitive ground disturbance' (IfA 2001).

1.3 This document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client, and should be submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Planning Authority for approval before archaeological investigation by ULAS is implemented. Unless otherwise detailed within this Design Specification, the watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, the Leicestershire County Council brief (27th February 2009).

1.4 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- Archaeological attendance and recording (intensive watching brief)

2. Background (taken from the Brief).

Context of the Project

2.1. The project involves a new dwelling on land to the rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire..

Geological and Topographical Background

2.2 The site lies within the village of Wymeswold (SK60302341; Fig. 1). The underlying geology of the site is likely to comprise Mudstone (Barnby Member to the west and Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation to the east) overlain with Glaciofluvial and Head Deposits (British Geological Survey of Great Britain).

Archaeological and Historical Background (from Brief)

2.3 The development area has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). It lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village adjacent to the medieval church and there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains might be affected by the development.

2.4 The Senior Planning Archaeologist has recommended archaeological attendance (an intensive watching brief) to be undertaken during soil stripping and groundworks for footings, landscaping and services etc.

3. Archaeological Objectives

Through archaeological monitoring of groundworks:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits.

- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2001).

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

Watching Brief Methodology

4.4 The project requires an intensive watching brief as defined in the IfA Standards and Guidance (2001). This will involve the inspection of all sensitive groundworks (e.g. stripped areas and service and foundation trenches) by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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.

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 Planning Archaeologist, the Client and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

Recording Systems

4.10 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

4.11 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

4.12 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

4.13 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.

4.14 A 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.

4.15 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds & samples

5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.

5.3 An Accession number will be obtained from the Assistant Keeper of Archaeological Archives at Leicestershire County Council that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site, prior to the commencement of any on-site works.

5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. As part of this phase, environmental sampling will be undertaken as appropriate in order to assess the environmental potential of the deep ditch or pond-like features under investigation. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

5.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

5.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Senior Planning Archaeologist/HER to be distributed amongst relevant sections of Leicestershire County Council as necessary.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.

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 usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7. Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site.

The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

9.1 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.

10. Timetable

10.1 The work has been scheduled to start on Thursday 25th June 2009 (to be confirmed), and will involve one person on site at varying times throughout the groundworks.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

10.3 An interim report on the results of the evaluation can be prepared, if required, after the completion of the fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1.

11.2 The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

12. Insurance

12.1 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).

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the unlikely event, that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Senior Planning archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plans detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

IfA, 2001 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

IfA, 2006 *Code of Conduct*

LCC (26-02-09), *Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (an intensive watching brief) at Land Rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire*.

MAP 2 *The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991*

MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)*

RFG/FRG 1993 *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)*

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)*

22-06-2009

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University of Leicester Archaeological Services Design Specification 09-601

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Appendix 1:

Risks Assessment: Proposed development at Land to the rear of 4, The Stockwell, Wymeswold, Leicestershire

NGR: SK60302341

Client: NCO Properties

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

A risks assessment will be completed by site personnel and will be updated and amended by on-site staff during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological watching brief (strip plan and sample excavate). 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

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

Working within an excavation.

2.1 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.

Working with plant.

2.2 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. Ear defenders /plugs and safety glasses will also be made available to all staff on site. Ear protection will be worn whilst the breaker/excavator is in use. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation.

During bucket changes site staff will stand well clear of the machine until the bucket/breaker has been correctly fitted and crowned.

Working in vicinity of services

2.3 If services or wells are encountered, machining will be halted until their extent has been established by hand excavation, or areas where it is safe to machine have been established.

Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

2.4 In the event of waterlogging preventing work continuing, an assessment will be made by the site supervisor to determine if it is possible to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked.