

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Carried Out at West Farm, South
Luffenham.
(SK 9302 8703)**

Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: 01/0812/9

For: Pridmore & Son.

Checked by Project Manager

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by D. Pridmore and Sons to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to West Farm, Angle Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland. No archaeological deposits were observed during the course of the work, however two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil; these were very abraded and likely to be residual.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by D. Pridmore and Sons to undertake an archaeological watching brief at West Farm, Angle Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland (SK 9302 8703) during topsoil stripping prior to building work being carried out. An examination of the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) indicated that the site of the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological interest within the medieval settlement core and that both Back Lane and Angle Lane are likely to be medieval in origin. The underlying geology is Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157).

The proposed development site consisted of rough vegetation and abandoned allotments on a gradual northwest southeast slope and was at approximately 59.7m OD. The boundary with Back Lane consists of a coursed limestone rubble wall, which Mr Pridmore recalled being rebuilt approximately ten years ago and is therefore of limited archaeological interest, the boundary with Angle Lane consists of wrought iron railings, probably late Victorian or early twentieth century in date. The northern boundary consists of a substantial and overgrown cutting for the now abandoned former London Midland & Scottish Railway.

2. Methodology

The scheme of treatment approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist required archaeological supervision and control over the initial topsoil strip; this involved a watching brief visit during the topsoil strip. The author carried out this visit on April 26th 2004.

3. Results

A back actor with ditching bucket stripped approximately 250mm to 400mm of dark greyish brown topsoil. The underlying subsoil consisted of yellowish grey brown silty clay with abundant inclusions of weathered limestone bedrock, bedrock also appeared to be outcropping along the northern edge of the site, adjacent to the railway cutting, although this may have been disturbance caused by the excavation of the cutting. The developers were going to carry out a soft vegetation strip in the south western corner of the site at a later date, this will only affect the top 100mm of topsoil and not impact on any possible underlying archaeological substrata, so further monitoring was deemed un-necessary.

4. Conclusion

Despite its promising location nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the topsoil stripping. However two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the watching brief, their extremely abraded condition would suggest that they are residual and were probably deposited on site as a result of manure spreading during the medieval period. This lack of occupational evidence would indicate that the site was peripheral to the medieval settlement, much as it is to the modern settlement.

Archive

The archive consists of a watching brief report sheet including sketch plan and colour prints. Two sherds of medieval pottery. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr. Pridmore for his help and co-operation during this watching brief.

References

Browning, J *An Archaeological Watching Brief During Groundworks at 3, The Square, South Luffenham, Rutland (NGR SK 9396 0203)*. ULAS Report No 2003-194.

An Archaeological Watching Brief Carried Out at West Farm, South Luffenham (SK 9302 8703)

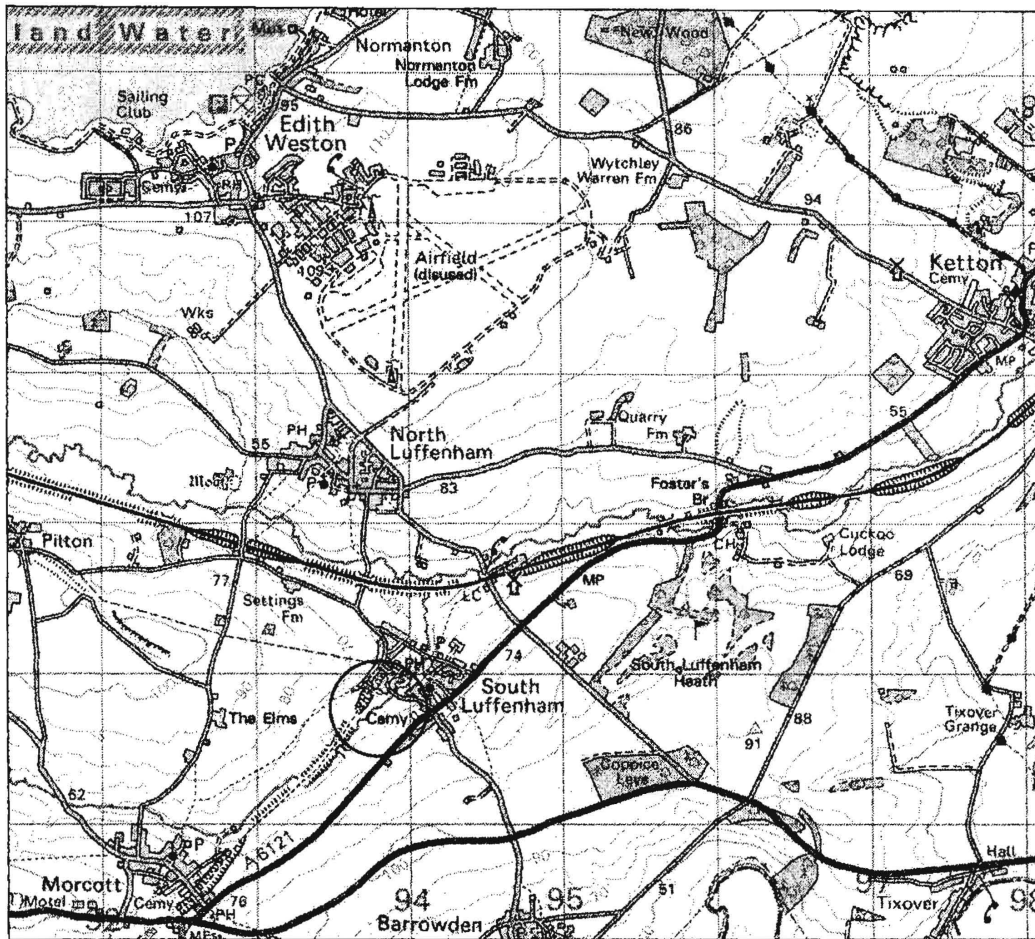


Figure 1: Location plan. Scale 1:50 000
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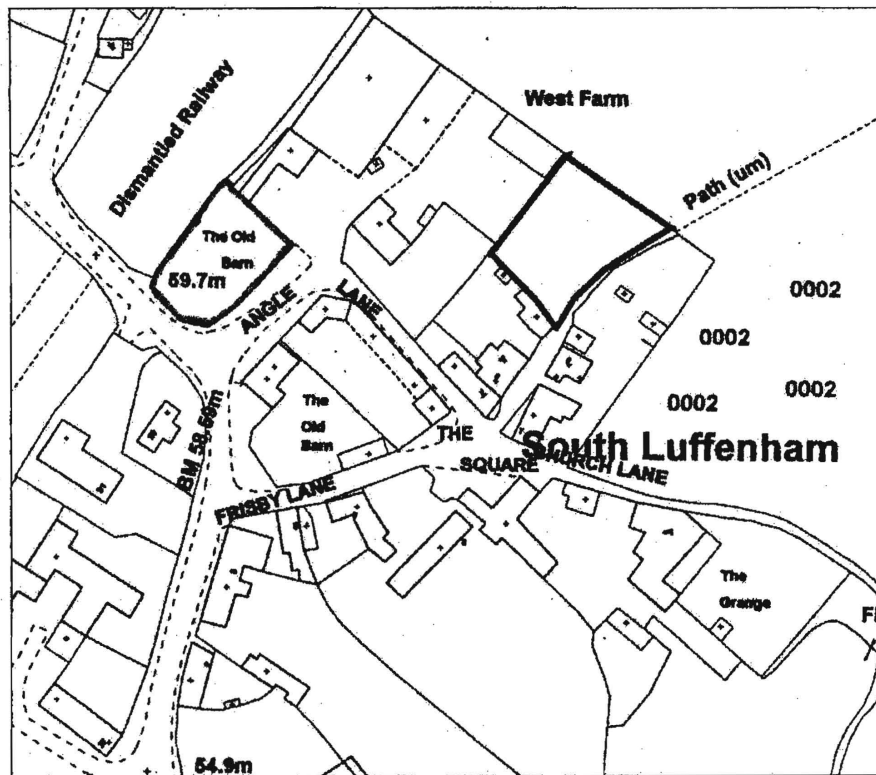


Figure 2: Plan of South Luffenham and development area, top left (not to scale).

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

West Farm, Angle Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland, (SK 9302 8703)

Planning Application: 01/0812/9.

For: Pridmore and Son

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 attendance, including control and supervision of ground works, as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of a two storey dwelling house and associated works at West Farm, Angle Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland (SK 9302 8703; Planning Application: 01/0812/9) for Pridmore and Sons. It addresses the requirements of the brief from Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as archaeological advisors to the planning authority as detailed in their letter of 30.11.2001 (OD/RU/01/0812/WS/DLS).

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 control and supervision is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Rutland County Council.

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The proposed development is in an area of archaeological importance in the historic core of South Luffenham, close to a medieval street frontage.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological control and supervision of existing overburden stripping and by the client's contractors:

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.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the control and supervision of overburden removal by experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these ground works, 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. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer ('brief'12).

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 developer, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the 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 owners, Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and Rutland County Council.

4.7 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 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 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services or Rutland County Museums (if finds are present) 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

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 ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

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)

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14.4.2004

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

***West Farm, Angle Lane, South Luffenham, Rutland, (SK 9302
8703)***

Planning Application: 01/0812/9.

For: Pridmore and Son

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 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

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats 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.

Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

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 Vialls 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.

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

Patrick Clay
14.4.2004