



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At 4 Main Street,
Burrough on the Hill,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK 7561 1061**

Andrew Hyam



ULAS Report No. 2010-047
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An Archaeological Watching Brief

**At 4 Main Street,
Burrough on the Hill,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 7561 1061

Andrew Hyam

For: Mr B Parish

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ULAS Report Number 2010-047

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Accession Number XA.32.2010

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 4 Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire. SK 7561 1061

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Grant's Free House, 4 Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire. The work took place in March 2010 in advance of the construction of a small extension to the rear of the public house. The development site lies within the historic core of the village and is close to a significant Saxon site. The foundations for the proposed extension were excavated and the internal footprint of the building was reduced to reveal an undisturbed natural substratum of yellow brown sandy clay. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A.32.2010

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 at Grant's Free House, 4 Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire, NGR SK7651 1061. It is proposed that a rectangular extension is to be located at the south eastern corner of the existing public house buildings. In response to planning application number 09/0079/FUL the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) recommended the need for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during soil stripping and groundworks. When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, recommended the requirement for archaeological work due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest a programme of archaeological monitoring should take place. The work has been commissioned by the owner Mr B Parish.

Background

The village of Burrough on the Hill lies approximately 8km to the south of the market town of Melton Mowbray and 15km to the north-east of Leicester (fig. 1). The village is located on a south-westerly heading spur of land with the ground dropping to the north, south and west. Grant's Free House is located at the western end of the village on Main Street (fig. 2). Main Street, as its name indicates, is the main route through the village which leads north-eastwards towards Somerby and south-westwards towards Twyford. The road in front of the public house forms a wide hollow way as it follows the curve of the road round into the village core. As a consequence of the hollow way the range of buildings follows a gentle slope upwards to the south-west (fig. 3). The site lies at a height of approximately 180m above OD.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest and is inside the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Burrough on the Hill. It is close to a significant Saxon site (HER ref MLE9429) and prehistoric remains (MLE9428) as well as some post-medieval earthworks (MLE4063). The large Iron Age promontory hillfort lies approximately 1km to the north-east. The 1885 first edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that the development site, which was known as the Stag and Hounds until quite recently, followed a similar form to that which exists today. The outbuildings to the rear of the main public house building appear to be slightly longer than they are now but nothing is shown where the proposed extension is to be built. The south-western part of the present car park is shown as a small enclosure. The basic shape of the buildings continues unaltered until the 1974 OS map when the rear outbuilding is shown in its present shortened form with the outline of a small rectangular structure to the south east just outside the southern boundary of the new extension.

The development proposal involved the excavation of footings around the footprint of the small rectangular shaped extension and the reduction of the ground level within this space (fig. 4). Prior to this work the area was covered in wooden decking with a variety of tarmac and concrete surfaces below. A number of active and redundant service pipes ran from the outhouse buildings down towards the road.

Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were achieved through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, 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.

Methodology

A tracked mini-digger with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket was used to excavate the foundations and to remove the modern concrete and tarmac surfaces. Subsequently the foundation trenches were excavated using the same machine. The internal footprint was then reduced whilst leaving in place all the active sewage pipes. All spoil was scanned for finds and the trenches examined for features.

All deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

Although much of the timber decking and tarmac surface had been removed before the start of the watching brief there were still several areas of thick concrete which needed to be broken up and removed before the start of excavations (fig. 5). Beneath the concrete and tarmac was a 0.4m to 0.5m thick layer of heavily disturbed ashy sandy clay into which several sewage pipes had been laid. A small amount of glazed, hard fired modern pottery and two short sections of clay pipe stem were recovered from this material but were not retained. Beneath this layer was the undisturbed natural substratum of firm yellow brown slightly sandy clay which continued all the way down to the base of the foundation trenches (fig. 6). Trenches were excavated in a U-shaped plan extending eastwards away from the existing outbuilding. A small trench against the outbuilding walls indicated that the existing brick structure was constructed on a slightly wider ironstone footing which was only around 0.4m to 0.5m deep. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the foundation trenches.

After the main foundation trenches had been excavated the centre of the plot was reduced in depth to accommodate the new floor level of the proposed extension. During this reduction much of the apparently modern disturbed overburden was removed to reveal the upper interface with the natural substratum (fig. 7). No archaeological features or deposits were observed before a thin layer of rubble was backfilled onto the surface to reduce the stickiness of the clay substrate.

Discussion

Despite the promising location of the site no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during this watching brief. The Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this area around the side of the public house has remained unchanged since the end of the 19th century and has apparently been used as the main route to the rear yard of the buildings. This may account for the mixed nature of the upper layer which has also been extensively disturbed by the construction of the various sewer pipes. Thus any potential archaeological deposits are likely to have been damaged or destroyed by continual traffic and rebuilding of the road surface.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro-forma watching brief form,

1 photo record sheet,

1 contact sheet of 7 35mm black and white photographs,

35mm black and white negatives,

1 contact sheet of 17 digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

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. Hyam. The project was managed by Dr P. Clay. Thanks are also due to the client Mr B Parish.

Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

IfA, 2006, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

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12th March 2010

Appendix 1. Figures



Figure 1 Burrough on the Hill location

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Figure 2 Site location plan
Supplied by developer



Figure 3 Development site from Main Street.
The proposed extension is to the rear of the white gate and digger. Looking south-west

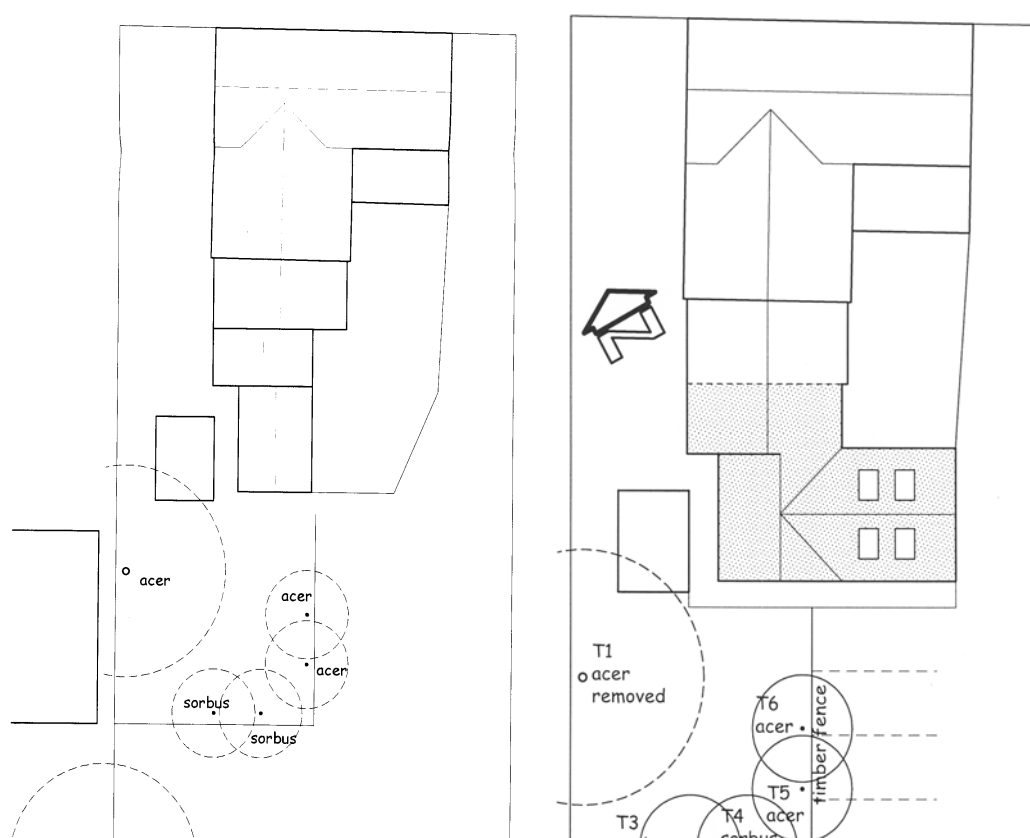


Figure 4 Existing and proposed site layout
Supplied by developer



Figure 5 Site of proposed extension
The tarmac has been partially removed. Looking north



Figure 6 Northern foundation trench during excavation
Looking east



Figure 7 Development site after excavation
Main Street and hollow way visible to right. Looking north-east

Appendix 2. ULAS Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: 4, Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 7561 1061

Client: Mr B Parish

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

P.A. 09/00797/FUL

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 for inspection and recording (a watching brief), 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 a proposed extension to the public house at 4, Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire for Mr B. Parish.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for 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 attendance (a watching brief) within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance as detailed in the *Brief for the Archaeological inspection and recording (an intensive watching brief) at 4, Main Street, Burrough on the Hill* (hereinafter the 'Brief' 27.01.2010).

2.2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is close to a significant Saxon site (HER ref MLE9429) and prehistoric remains (MLE9428) as well as some post-medieval earthworks (MLE4063).

2.2.3 The proposal are likely to include the excavation of footings and the introduction of services, etc., that will damage or destroy buried archaeological remains within the development area.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, 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.

4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

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

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.8 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.

4.9 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, 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. 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 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, Historic Environment 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 Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire County 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.

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

Brown, D., *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for
2008 Archaeologists)

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27.01.2010

Appendix 3 OASIS Information

INFORMATION	
Project Name	4 Main St, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire.
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Public House
Development Type	Extension to existing building
Reason for Investigation	New extension
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 7561 1061
Start/end dates of field work	1.03.2010
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	10m ²

ULAS Contact Details

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