



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Westfield, Main Street, Gumley,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 682 899

Mathew Morris



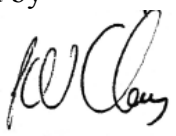
ULAS Report No. 1010-083
©2010

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Westfield, Main Street, Gumley,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 682 899

Mathew Morris

**For: Mr D Cairns
Planning application no. 09/01319/FUL**

Approved by	
Signed:	 Date: 10.05.2010.
Name:	Patrick Clay

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614

**ULAS Report Number 2010-083
©2010
X.A75.2010**

CONTENTS

Summary	2
Introduction.....	2
Geology and Topography.....	2
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	2
Archaeological Objectives	4
Methodology.....	4
Results	4
Discussion.....	5
Bibliography	8
Archive.....	8
Publication	8
Acknowledgements	8
Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological Work.....	9
Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry.....	12

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted	3
Figure 2: Plan of the development area.....	6
Figure 3: A typical section showing the basic stratigraphic sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural substratum.....	7
Figure 4: Removal of the topsoil and subsoil	7

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Westfield, Main Street, Gumley, Leicestershire (SP 682 899)

Mathew Morris

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Westfield, Main Street, Gumley, Leicestershire (SP 682 899) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 25th April 2010. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr D. Cairns in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and garage. The work involved supervision and inspection of ground reduction by mechanical excavator within the garden to the rear of the present house for any indication of archaeological activity. The results of the investigation proved negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A75.2010

Introduction

This document constitutes the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out at Westfield, Main Street, Gumley, Leicestershire (SP 682 899). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr D. Cairns by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 25th April 2010.

The proposed development of a new dwelling with garage (Planning Application No. 09/01319/FUL) was located within the garden to the rear of the present house. The property covers *c.*1727 square metres on the south-western side of Main Street, Gumley, situated approximately 17km south-east of Leicester (Figure 1), with the actual development area covering *c.*399 square metres set back *c.*31m from the street (Figure 2).

The watching brief was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic Environment, March 2010). The work followed the approved *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (see Appendix 1).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 170 (Market Harborough), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene glacial Diamicton Till overlying bedrock deposits of Early Jurassic mudstone belonging to the Dyrham formation (BGS 1968). The site lies at a height of *c.*148m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) with the ground dropping away to the south and east, and away to the north-west.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development area lies in an area of archaeological interest within the historic settlement core of Gumley (HER Ref: MLE 9433). Gumley is known to have a long documented history and was a meeting place of the witanagemot of the kings of

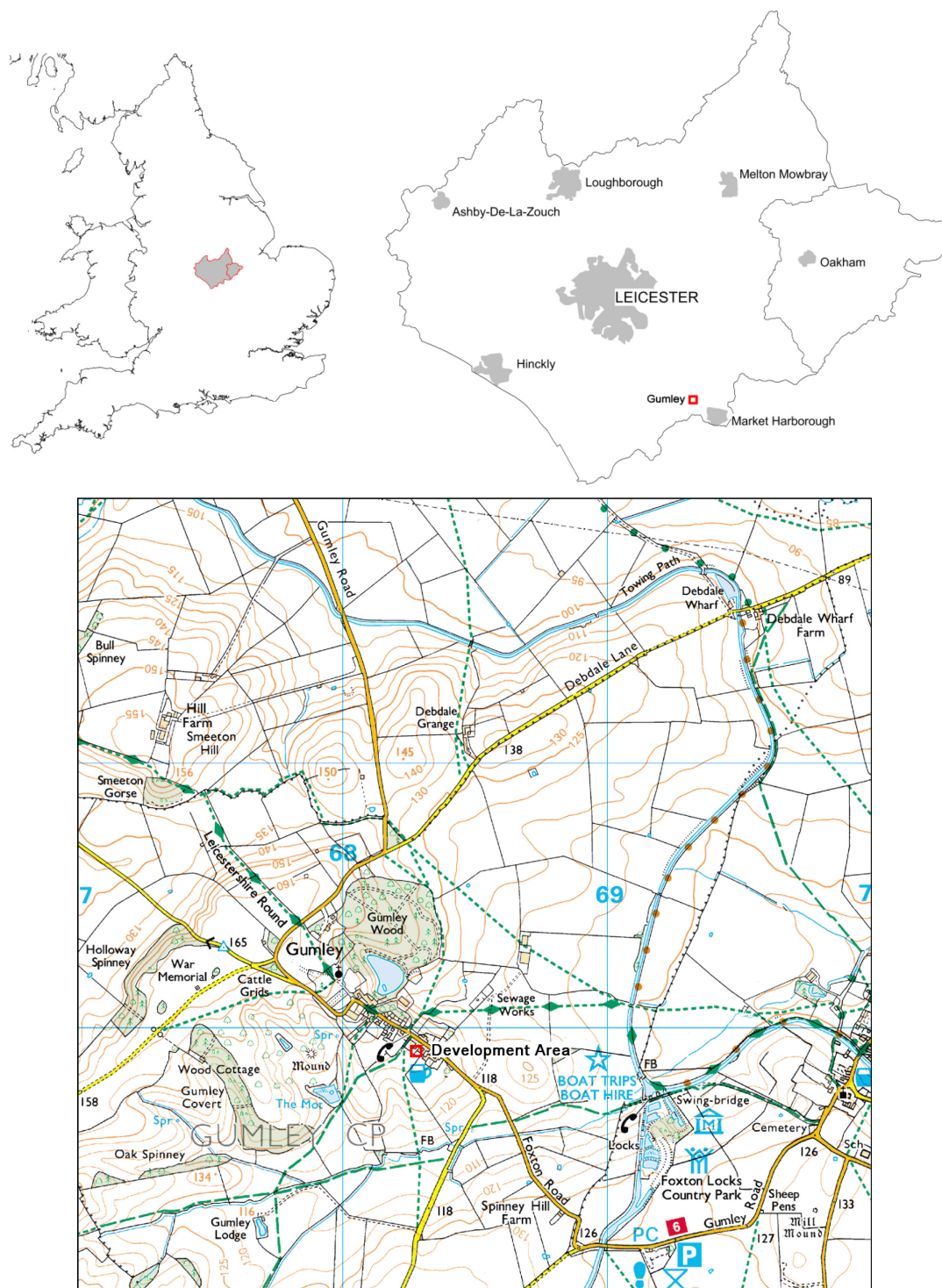


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 233 Leicester and Hinckly 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

Mercia during the 8th century. During the Domesday Survey in 1086 the village was noted to lie within two manors belonging to Countess Judith, a niece of William the Conqueror, and Robert de Vescy. These eventually merged into a single estate during the late medieval period. In 1764 Joseph Cradock built Gumley Hall at the north end

of the village next to the 14th century parish church. The hall was demolished in 1964.

An earthwork *c.*395m to the west of the site (NMR: SP68NE1) is now considered to be the possible remains of a medieval motte castle and areas of medieval village earthworks still survive *c.*323m to the east and *c.*907m to the west of the site (NMR: SP68NE28 and SP69SE41). However, the remains of ridge and furrow are still present immediately west of site and the Victoria County History's entry for Gumley suggests that 'the Saxon and medieval village did not occupy the site of the present settlement' (Lee & McKinley 1964).

Most of the house along Main Street date from the latter half of the 19th century and Westfield itself was formerly the site of the village bakery. This was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the present dwelling (D. Cairns 2010 pers. comm.). Late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show the present garden, and area of development, to be two small fields to the rear of the street frontage.

Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The proposed work involved the significant reduction of the present ground level across the development area. This required the presence of a professional archaeologist to supervise any work likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision of the removal of topsoil and subsoil across the development area in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a mini 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. Due to constraints on space within the site soil was stripped progressively across the development area with the loose deposited on negative areas to the rear of the machine. All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on a pro-forma ULAS watching brief record form.

All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

The area impacted by the current development was situated within the garden to the rear of the present dwelling (soon to be demolished) *c.*31m south-east of the street frontage. The ground has clearly been artificially terraced along the site's north-

eastern edge, adjacent to the present dwelling, dropping down *c.*3m to the street frontage, but slopes down naturally to the south-east (Figure 2).

The same basic stratigraphic sequence was observed across the entire area (Figure 3 and Figure 4) and initial machining removed very friable dark brown-grey loam topsoil containing occasional abraded 19th century building rubble (primarily brick with some slate) mixed with scattered fragments of charcoal and ceramic wares, predominantly china. This soil was *c.*0.28m thick at the north-western end of the area thickening to *c.*0.46m at the south-eastern end. It covered *c.*0.26m to *c.*0.32m of soft orangeish-grey clayey-silt subsoil containing occasional small to medium sub-angular stones and further abraded 19th century building rubble. The natural substratum was reached *c.*0.54m below present ground level at the north-western end of the area and *c.*0.78m below ground level at the south-eastern. This was mottled grey-orange silty-clay containing occasional small to medium angular flints, rounded chalk nodules, scattered medium to large cobbles and inclusions of grey-blue clay. The thickening of the topsoil and subsoil deposits to the south-east, despite the drop of slope in this direction, is likely due to the presence of the 19th century farm buildings along the property's south-eastern boundary (now The Barns and Mulberry House) stopping soil migration in this direction.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief and, apart from the presence of 19th century material within the topsoil and subsoil, the area appeared very sterile. Despite the presence of ridge and furrow to the west no evidence of it was identified across the development area and the only non-natural deposit observed was a more concentrated skim of 19th century building rubble and soil, *c.*0.1m thick, sealed between the topsoil and subsoil within the sites northern corner adjacent to the present house. Approximately 2m from the south-eastern end of the area natural substratum disappeared beyond *c.*0.85m below ground level with only subsoil observed across the base of the area. This may be to do with the drop in slope across the site but also coincides with a property line dividing two small fields present on the 1886 1:2500 series Ordnance Survey map.

Discussion

Although the site was identified as being within the historic core of the village no archaeological deposits were encountered and this fits with the suggestion that the Saxon and medieval settlement cores were elsewhere. Ordnance survey maps dating back to the late 19th century indicate the garden was a pair of small fields prior to their incorporation into the present Westfield property and the absence of evidence for medieval ridge and furrow suggests this area was pastoral rather than under arable cultivation. The north-eastern side of the site, adjacent to the present house, had clearly been terraced in the past and the presence of 19th century building rubble within the topsoil and subsoil likely relates to the construction and occupation of the 19th century bakery or its demolition in the 1960s.



Figure 2: Plan of the development area



Figure 3: A typical section showing the basic stratigraphic sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural substratum



Figure 4: Removal of the topsoil and subsoil

Bibliography

- B.G.S., 1968 *England and Wales Sheet 170 Market Harborough: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series.
English Heritage *Pastscapes*. www.pastscape.org.uk (accessed 4/5/10)
Lee, J.M. & McKinley, R.A. (eds.), 1964 'Gumley' in *A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5*. 116-121

Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 watching brief record form
7 digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A75.2010

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 2).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client, Mr D. Cairns, and contractors, R. M. Langley and Sons, for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Dr Patrick Clay.

Mathew Morris MA
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: mlm9@le.ac.uk

04/05/2010

Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Westfield, Main Street, Gumley, Leicestershire

NGR: SP 682 899

Client: Mr D Cairns

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

P.A 09/01319/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 new dwelling and garage at Westfield, Gumley, Leicestershire.

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* (LCC 1997).

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 Westfield, Gumley, Leicestershire*. NGR SP 682 899 (hereinafter the 'Brief' 06.04.2010).

2.2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic settlement core of Gumley (HER Ref: MLE 9433).

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 if present 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)

Patrick Clay
Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: pnc3@le.ac.uk

27.01.2010

Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	Westfield, Main Street, Gumley, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
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	SP 682 899
Start/end dates of field work	29/04/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	c.1727 square meters

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2008/9