



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern,
Leicestershire

NGR: SK 502 223

Mathew Morris



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 502 223

Mathew Morris

**For: Mr and Mrs Amor
Planning application no. 10/0157/2**

Approved by

Signed: 

Date: 18/10/10

Name: R Buckley

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern, Leicestershire (SK 502 223)

Mathew Morris

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern, Leicestershire (SK 502 223) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 14th and 15th of September 2010. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Amor in advance of the construction of a new single storey extension to the rear and side of the existing house. The work involved the supervision and inspection of machine excavated foundation trenches and areas of ground reduction for any indication of archaeological activity. Apart from the identification of former house footings incorporated into a retaining wall along the street frontage on the edge of the development area the results of the investigation proved negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A168.2010.

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological watching brief carried out at Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern, Leicestershire (SK 502 223). The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Amor by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 14th and 15th September 2010.

The proposed erection of a single storey extension to the rear and side of the present house (Planning Application no. 10/0157/2) was located within the garden to the north and east of Cross House. The property covers c.1198 square metres to the north of the junction of Cross Street, Church Street and Narrow Lane in Hathern, situated approximately 3km north-west of Loughborough and 20km north-west of Leicester (Figure 1). The total area impacted by the present development covered c.255 square metres set back c.6m 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 Charnwood Borough Council, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5, Planning and the Historic Environment), as laid out in the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (see Appendix 1).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 141 (Loughborough), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel (Head) overlying bedrock deposits of Triassic mudstone belonging to the Gunthorpe Formation (BGS 2001). The site lies on a south-east facing slope with the ground rising from 38.8m above Ordnance Datum (OD) on the street frontage to c.41m OD to the rear of the property.

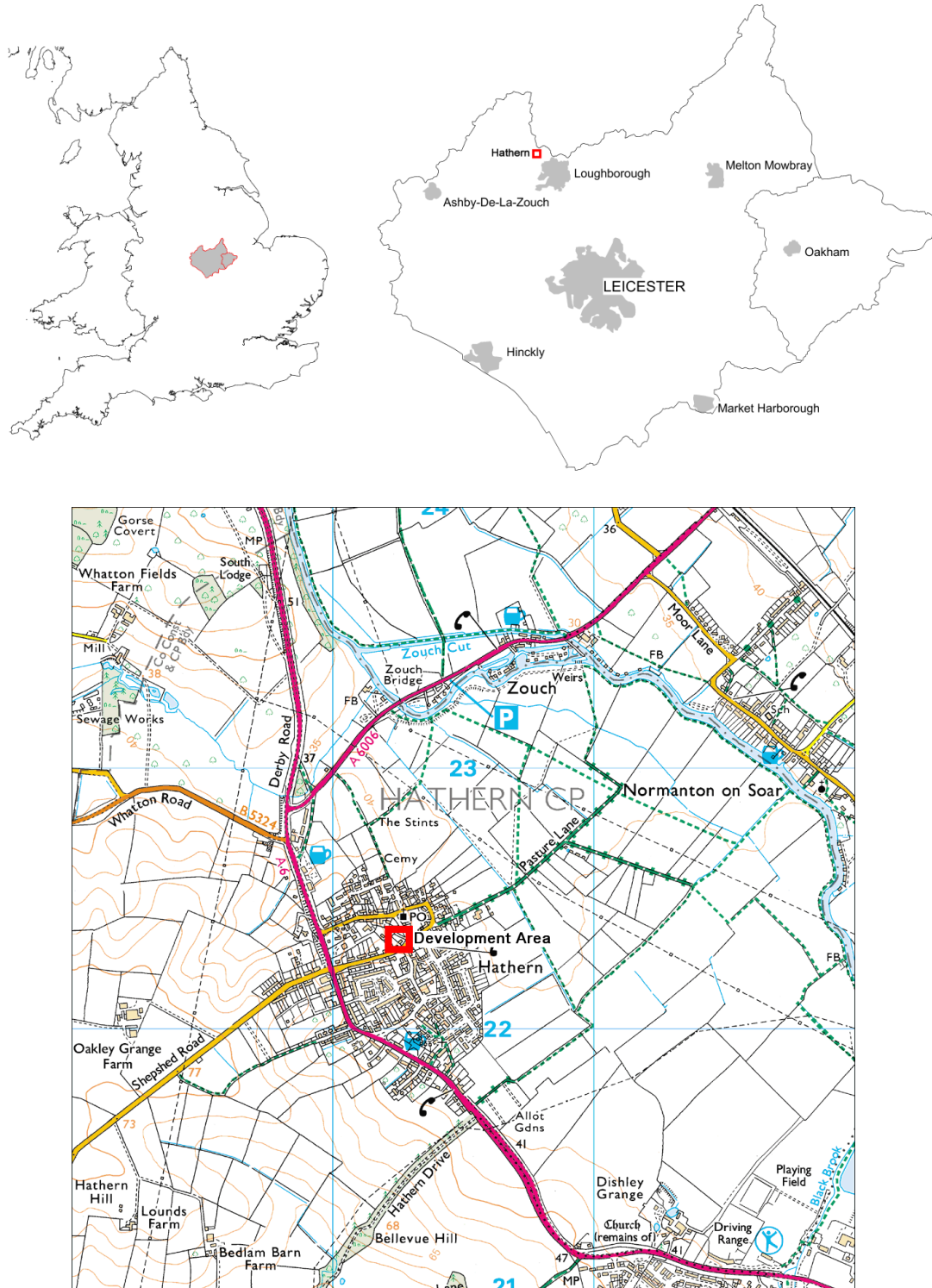


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 246 Loughborough, Melton Mowbray & Syston 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.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the medieval and

post-medieval historic settlement core of the village (HER ref. MLE582). The site lies adjacent to the medieval market cross, which is a scheduled monument (SM ref. 21654; MLE13464), and is likely to have been associated with the documented market held in Hathern during the medieval period (MLE671). The building to the west of Cross House (nos. 58 and 60 Narrow Lane) is a timber-framed house dating to the 17th century (MLE13476), and Roman and medieval pottery has been recovered from gardens c.45m to the west at no. 52 Narrow Lane (MLE8971 and MLE8972).

Hathern is first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 as *Averderne* and historical sources refer to it as *Hacthurne* in 1230. Its name is thought to derive from Old English meaning ‘place at the hawthorn’ (Mills 2003). During the later post-medieval period the village developed as an important centre for framework knitting.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1884, shows that the development area once contained two buildings fronting onto the street with ancillary buildings and a pump to the rear, now beneath the present house. One of these buildings is shown to be the Post Office. Subsequent editions of the map show that these buildings gradually disappeared between 1901 and 1955.

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 project required a professional archaeologist to supervise all groundwork likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision and inspection of machine dug foundation trenches and areas of ground reduction in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a JCB 3C mechanical excavator with a 0.6m toothed bucket. All exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. 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 recording form whilst any stratigraphic units would be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate.

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

A visual inspection of the site clearly indicated that ground in the development area had been terraced in the past and was now c.1m below the level of the garden to the

north-west. On excavation of a *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*0.8m deep footing for a retaining wall running across the property *c.*6m to the rear of the house the following stratigraphic sequence was observed in the south-east facing section: *c.*0.28m of topsoil overlying *c.*0.22m of subsoil, *c.*0.38m of greyish-red clay, *c.*0.54m of soft yellowish-orange sand, *c.*0.1m of very compact yellowish-grey sand and *c.*0.36m of brownish-red clay (Figure 3). Apart from the topsoil and subsoil these were all natural substratum. The topsoil was dark greyish-brown silty-loam mixed with substantial quantities of 19th- and 20th-century building rubble, whilst the subsoil was reddish-grey clayey-silt mixed with abundant pebbles and scattered natural sand and clay inclusions. It too was contaminated with building rubble.

In the footings for the house extension a similar basic stratigraphic sequence was observed. To the rear of the house *c.*0.44m of topsoil overlay *c.*0.38m of greyish-red clay with soft yellowish-orange sand exposed at the bottom of the footing (Figure 4); whilst to the side *c.*0.2m of topsoil overlay *c.*0.4m of reddish-orange clayey-gravel and *c.*0.4m of soft yellowish-orange sand. From the sections of these trenches it was apparent the natural substratum was dropping down to the south at approximately twenty degrees. Only one intrusive feature was observed. This was a modern brick and concrete rendered tank, *c.*1.5m in diameter and *c.*1.8m deep located *c.*1.8m north-east of Cross House's eastern corner (Figure 5). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Work along the northern edge of the development area to re-grade the drive saw the ground reduced by up to *c.*0.3m. For the most part this only impacted upon existing gravel hardcore and topsoil but on the street frontage removal of this material exposed a crude stone and brick footing beneath, and of a different phase to, the existing retaining wall running along the street edge (Figure 6). This coincides with the location of the Post Office building present on the 1884 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and may, therefore, be the remains of that building.

Discussion

Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the groundworks, nor had any extant activity associated with the buildings present on late 19th- and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps survived within the development area, excepting the possible wall footing on the street frontage. This is likely to be due to significant ground reduction in the past, most probably during construction of the present house in the 1950s, which has terraced the site leaving the natural substratum exposed directly beneath the topsoil. The significant quantity of building rubble within the topsoil further supports the notion that the site was levelled following the demolition of the previous buildings and the erection of the present house.



Figure 2: Development area showing area impacted by ground reduction and the location of the excavated foundation trenches

OS map data reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown copyright 2009. License number AL100029495.



Figure 3: South-east facing section in retaining wall footing, looking west



Figure 4: Typical stratigraphy in extension footing to rear of house, looking south-west



Figure 5: Remains of brick tank east of present house, looking south-east



Figure 6: exposed early wall footing on street frontage, possibly the remains of the Post Office building, looking west

Bibliography

- B.G.S., 2001 *England and Wales Sheet 141 Loughborough: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series.
Mills, A. D., 2003 *A Dictionary of British Place-Names*. Oxford, Oxford University Press

Archive

The site archive consists of: 2 A4 watching brief record form
12 digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A168.2010

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 Amor, and the contractors 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 Richard Buckley.

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

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Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Cross House, 62 Cross Street, Hathern

NGR: SK 502 223

Client: Mr and Mrs Amor

***Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council
P.A 10/0157/2***

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 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 residential development .

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, Standard and Guidance for Building investigation and Recording* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

2 Background

2.1 *Requirement for archaeological work (taken from Brief)*

2.1.1 The planning authority requires professional Archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development (a watching brief). A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation is also to be made.

2.2 *Archaeological potential (taken from the HNET advice letter to CBC)*

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Cross House is located within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Hathern (MLE 582) and adjacent to the medieval market cross which is a Scheduled Monument and a Grade II* listed building (SM 21654; LB 262/46/7/33; MLE 13464) and likely to be associated with the documented medieval market held at Hathern (MLE 671).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation:

- 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 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.

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 cooperate 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 palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

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.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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 on 14 May 2010. 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., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Richard Buckley, Director
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: rjb16@le.ac.uk

8/9/2010

Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	Cross House, Cross Street, Hathern
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 502 223
Start/end dates of field work	14/09/10 – 15/09/10
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	255 square metres

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



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