



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
40 Main Street, Medbourne
Leicestershire
NGR: SP 80040 93250**

Gavin Speed

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 80040 93250

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For: Andrew Cory

Approved by

Signed:



....

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire (SP 80040 93250), during the groundworks for a new dwelling. The area had been severely truncated from the now demolished building and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. X.A189.2010.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken during residential development at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire (SP 50460 90690) on the 15th November 2010 by ULAS.

The fieldwork had been requested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County as archaeological advisors to the planning authority to identify and record any archaeological remains of significance prior to redevelopment of the land (Fig. 2). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5:

Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5) and followed the design specification (Score 2010).

The development site is located in the north of the village on the west side of Main Street (Fig. 1). The site was identified as being situated within an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) and lies close to the Roman small town and villa site.

The underlying geology of the site consists of Dryham Formation Bedrock (British Geological Survey of Great Britain). The site lies at a height of approximately 70.4 above O.D.

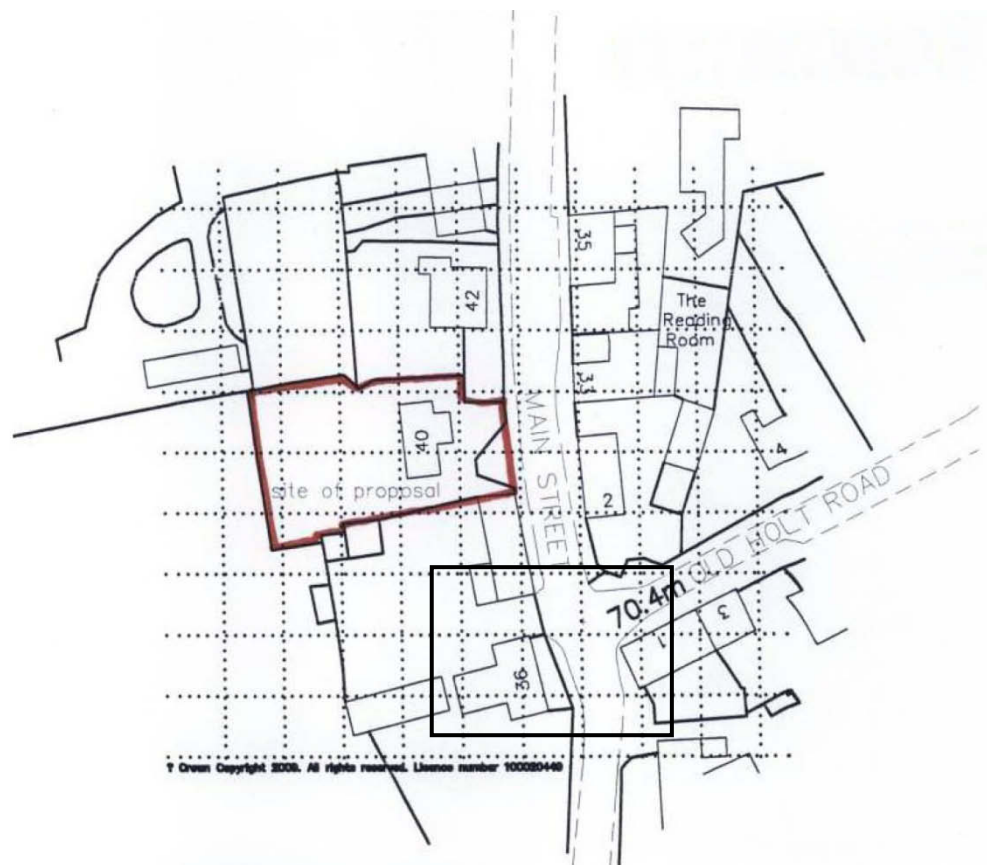


Figure 1: Site location plan. (provided by client)

Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies close to Medbourne Roman small town and villa. In addition to the west of the application area there are possible medieval earthworks associated with settlement and other indications of medieval settlement include the parish church (MLE 14470). Parts of the site had already been previously developed.

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of the deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced.

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The groundworks were to involve demolition of a upstanding building (of mid-20th century date), and the excavation by machine of the new building foundations. Monitoring of this work took place on 15/11/2010, when work consisted of a JCB type excavator performing the groundworks.

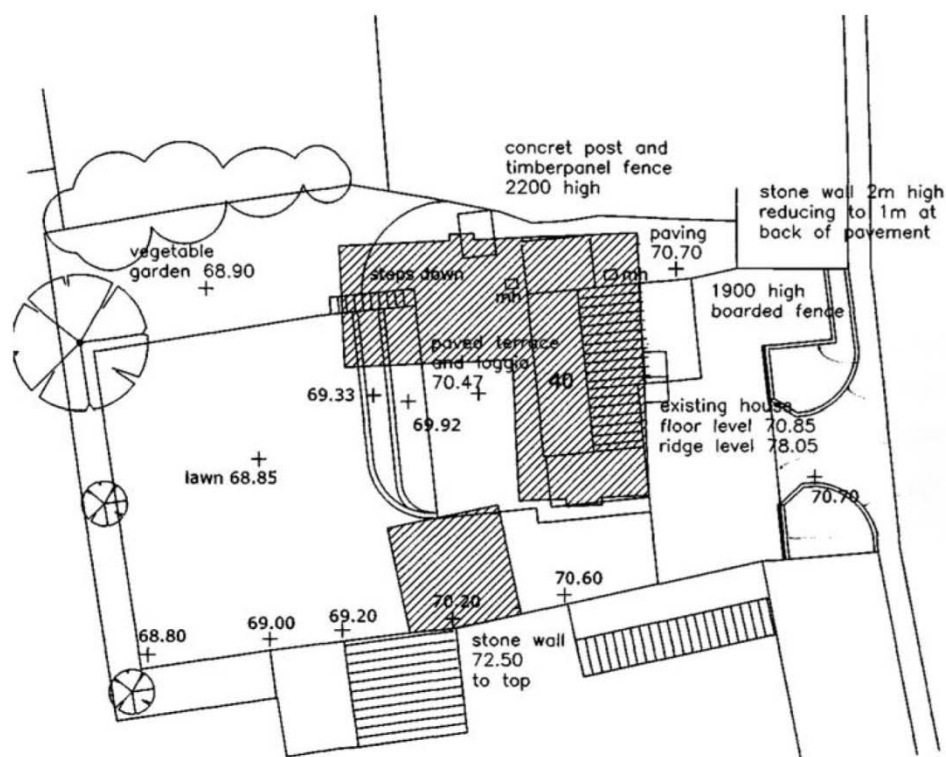


Figure 2: Site location plan showing proposed development (plan provided by client)

Results

The ground was severely truncated from a recently demolished building (Fig. 3). Modern demolition and building hardcore (0.4-0.5m thick) overlay natural clay substratum (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds were present.



Figure 3: Demolished building, looking north



Figure 4: New development footing showing modern overburden / demolition overlying natural clay, scale 1m.

Conclusions

No archaeological features or finds were exposed during the groundworks at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire. The previous standing building had disturbed all topsoil and subsoil and some natural clay.

Archive

Fieldwork was carried out by the author. Vicki Score managed the project.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services, and is an addition to the current archive under accession number XA189.2010.

The archive contains:

- Watching brief form
- Digital photos thumbnails (and on CD)
- Black and white prints
- CD containing this report
- Unbound copy of this report

Bibliography

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*,

Score, V. 2010, '*Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire*' University of Leicester Archaeological Services unpublished design specification 04/10/2010.

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York under ID: universi1-86402. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary for universi1-63343
Project Name	40 Main Street, Medbourne
Summary	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at 40 Main Street, Medbourne, Leicestershire (SP 80040 93 250), during the groundworks for a new dwelling. The area was severely truncated from the – now demolished – building. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified.
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	none / none
Current Land Use (2010)	Residential
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	as a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 80040 93250
Start/end dates of field work	15/11/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services
Study Area	0.1ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: X.A189.2010 OASIS form ID: universi1-86402

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