



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street,
Newtown Linford , Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 520 098

Mathew Morris



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street, Newtown Linford,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 520 098

Mathew Morris

**For: Mr M. Roach
Planning application no. 10/0349/2**

Approved by

Signed:



Date: 23 July 2010

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098)

Mathew Morris

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 21st June 2010. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr M. Roach in advance of construction of a new extension to the present dwelling. The work involved supervision and inspection of ground reduction and footing excavation by mechanical excavator for any indication of archaeological activity. With the exception of early modern disturbance to the rear of the house the results of the investigation proved negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A99.2010.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 520 098). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr M. Roach by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 21st June 2010.

The proposed development of a new extension to the existing dwelling (Planning Application No. 10/0349/2) was located within the garden to the rear and south-east of the present house. The property is situated on the north-east side of Main Street, Newtown Linford, approximately 8km north-west of Leicester (Figure 1), with the development area covering *c.*127 square metres set back *c.*4m from the street to the east of the present house (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 (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 155 (Coalville) indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of alluvial sands, gravels, clays and silts overlying bedrock deposits of Triassic Mudstone belonging to the Mercia Mudstone Formation, with deposits of diorite outcropping to the north and east (BGS 2010). The site lies on the floor of the Lin valley within *c.*30m of the River Lin at a height of *c.*108m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with ground rising to the north.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development area lies in an area of archaeological interest, occupying a street frontage



Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

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plot within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Newtown Linford (HER Ref. MLE 734). Newtown Linford is not referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the village was probably not founded until the late 13th century

when it was colonized from Groby. Its name refers to the ‘new settlement by the ford where the lime trees grow’. For 500 years it, and the neighboring Bradgate Park, formed part of the Manor of Groby, first held by the Ferrers family but passing to the Greys in the 15th century (Stevenson 1998, 7). Today much of the medieval village still survives with Vine Cottage (no. 9 Main Street, MLE 8734) immediately north of the development area dated to the early 16th century and Rose Cottage (no. 11 Main Street, MLE 8735) to the mid-15th century (Parker & Finn 2006, 32-33).

Cartographic evidence shows a building on the site of the present dwelling on a map of the village dated 1773 whilst the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the property more recognizable as the form it is in today, the main exception being a collection of ancillary buildings to the rear of the present dwelling. A 1925 bill of sale described it as ‘Cottage of stone and slate – 5 rooms and pantry, wash house, coal house etc, garden, also useful paddock of grass land at rear of over a quarter of an acre’ (Stevenson 1998, 138).

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 required the presence of a professional archaeologist to supervise any activity likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision of the removal of topsoil and modern overburden across the development area and inspection of machine and hand dug foundation trenches in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a JCB 3C mechanical excavator with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket (for the topsoil strip) and a 0.6m toothed bucket (for the footings). 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 *Standards 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 immediately behind and to the south-east of the present dwelling. This was in the garden associated with the cottage but also incorporated areas once beneath a garage and a single storey lean-to extension off the rear of the house, recently demolished (Figure 2).

Initial work involved the reduction of the present ground level by *c.*0.3m along the development's frontage and *c.*0.8m within the garden behind the house (Figure 3). This machining removed mixed deposits of topsoil and modern overburden. Along the frontage this was *c.*0.4m of clean, very dark grey clayey-silt thickening to *c.*0.5m to the north-east. Behind the house this was mixed with concentrated dumps of 19th and early 20th century refuse (glass bottles, broken china etc.) and more recent building rubble (brick, concrete, paving slabs).

The natural substratum was uncovered directly beneath the topsoil. Across the southern half of the development this was coarse grey sandy-gravel comprised of poorly sorted small and medium sub-rounded to angular pebbles mixed with frequent larger stones and occasional very large diorite boulders (Figure 4). This was over *c.*0.6m thick, descending below the formation level and appeared indicative of alluvial material. It was observed to overlie very compact mottled yellowish-orange and yellowish-grey clayey gravel which was exposed across much of the area to the rear of the house.

Truncating this, and sealed beneath the topsoil, *c.*5.4m north-east of Tyburn Cottage was a *c.*0.3m wide tapered channel extending north-west to south-east across the development area. The base of the channel was filled with loose stone and brick rubble covered with coarse greyish-orange sandy-clay (Figure 5). It appears likely this was a land-drain and it appeared to project towards the corner of Vine Cottage to the north-west (Figure 2). South of this was an area of disturbance *c.*3.1m by *c.*1.3m filled with very soft dark grey silt mixed with large quantities of stone and brick rubble. At the north-western end was the remains of a *c.*1m square brick shaft also filled with rubble. This probably represents the remains of a privy or outhouse pre-dating the recently demolished garage but could also be an old inspection chamber for much of the area south-east of Tyburn Cottage was truncated by trenches for old sewage and fresh-water pipes.

Discussion

Although the development area was identified as an area of archaeological interest no archaeological deposits pre-dating the early modern period (*c.*1750-1900) were encountered during the watching brief and the bulk of the material/disturbance observed appears to relate to the occupation of the present dwelling.

Bibliography

- B.G.S., 2010 *England and Wales Sheet 155 Coalville: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series.
- Parker, M. & Finn, N., 2006 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Building Survey for Beech Farm, 552 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire (SK 521 097)*. Unpublished ULAS Report no. 2006-019.
- Stevenson, J., 1998 *Newtown Linford: the Old Buildings and their Occupants*. Leicester, Kairos Press.

Archive

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

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A99.2010

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 M. Roach, and 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.

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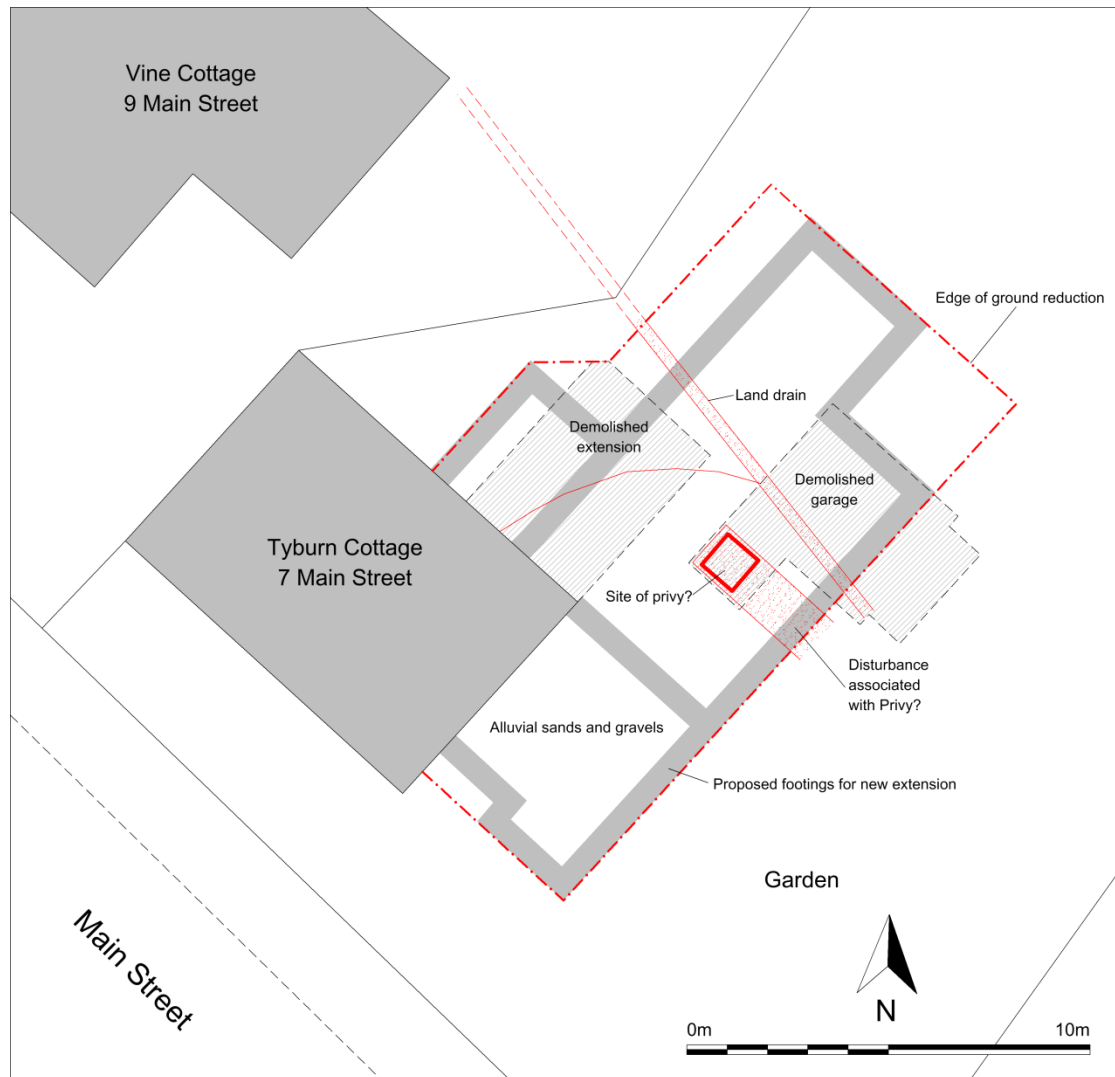


Figure 2: Plan of the development area showing results



Figure 3: The development area stripped of topsoil and modern overburden showing the natural substratum and the position of the two early modern features. Looking south



Figure 4: Typical section along property frontage showing the alluvial sands and gravels beneath the topsoil. Looking south



Figure 5: The land drain crossing the site to the rear of the present house. Looking south-east

Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Tyburn Cottage, Main Street, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire LE6 0AE

Archaeological Watching Brief

Client: Mr M. Roach

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council

P.A 10/0349/2

1 Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) 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* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

- 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

- 2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, located within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of the village of Newtown Linford.

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 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 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)

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Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street, Newtown Linford
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	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 520 098
Start/end dates of field work	21/06/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	127 square metres

Contact Details

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