

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at
33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire
(NGR: SP 548 948)**

Greg Jones

For: Isherwood McCann

Planning Application: 09/0078/1/PX

Checked by Project Manager:

Signed:



Date: 30.04.2009

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ULAS Report Number 2009-050 ©2009

[X.A85.2009]

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at 33 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 548 948)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at 33 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire, (SP 548 948) on the 7th of April 2009. This work was undertaken on behalf of Isherwood McCann during the ground works for the construction of a rear two storey extension. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work.

The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A85.2009].

1. Introduction

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Isherwood McCann to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works for the construction of a residential two storey rear extension, on land at 33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 548 948); Planning application no. 09/0078/1/PX. The watching brief was undertaken on the 7th April 2009.

1.2 To fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) the Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, Harborough District Council, requested that an archaeological attendance for inspection & recording (an intensive watching brief) be undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site. At the request of Isherwood McCann an archaeological watching brief was undertaken, as groundworks had already commenced, to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site. This report presents the results of the watching brief.

2. Site Location

2.1 The proposed development site of 33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 548 948) is located within the medieval village core of Cosby next to the Church of St. Michael and the Angels. The village of Cosby is located approximately 6 miles to the south-east of Leicester next to the M1 motorway (figure. 1).

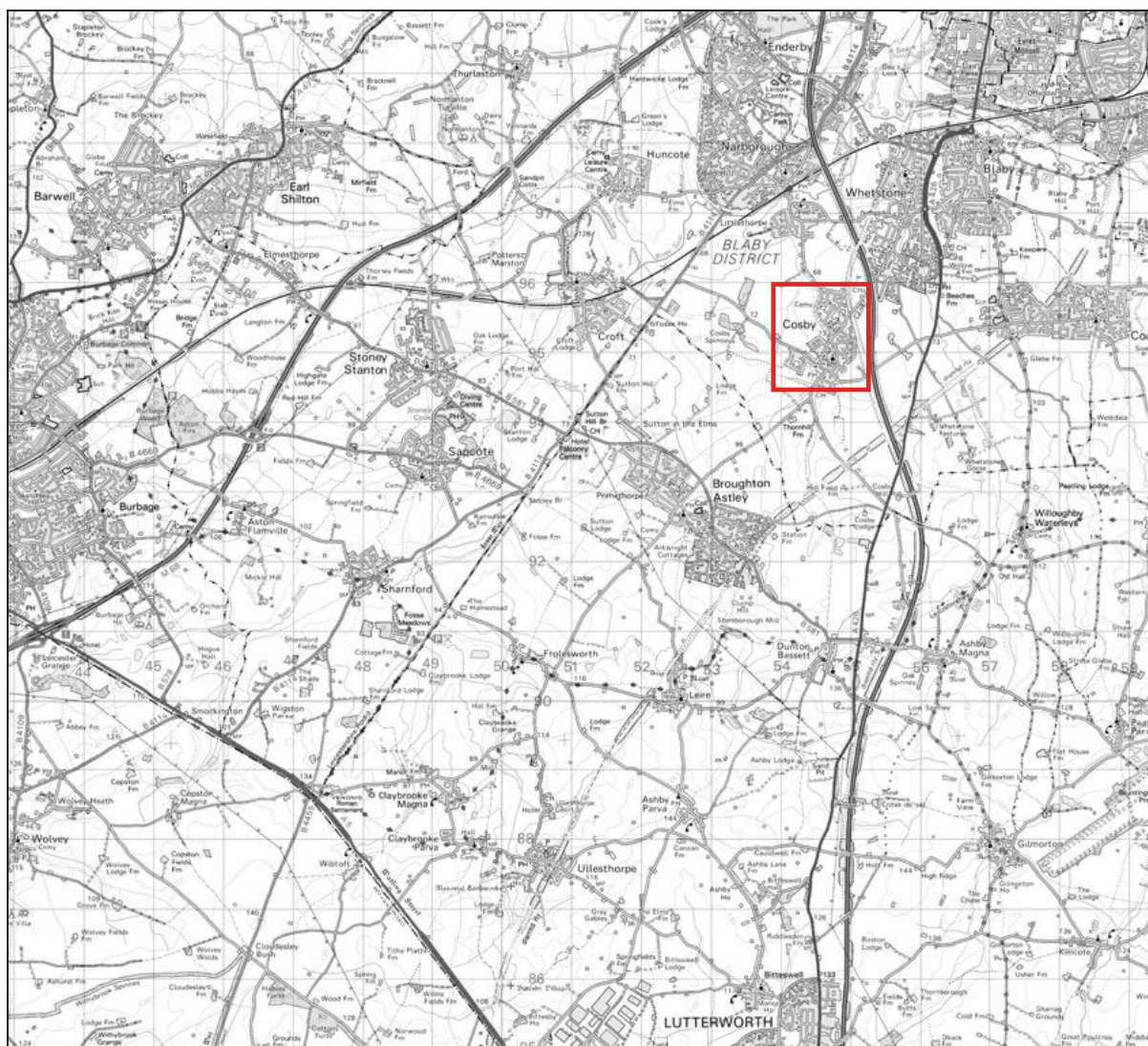


Figure 1 Site Location Plan of Cosby 1:5000
Licence Number: AL100029495

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The Ordnance Survey's Geological Survey of Great Britain Map Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Glacial Till, with some areas of sand and gravel. Excavation revealed however, that the natural substratum of the site was composed entirely of sand.

3.2 The site lies at a height of c.83m OD and is fairly flat.

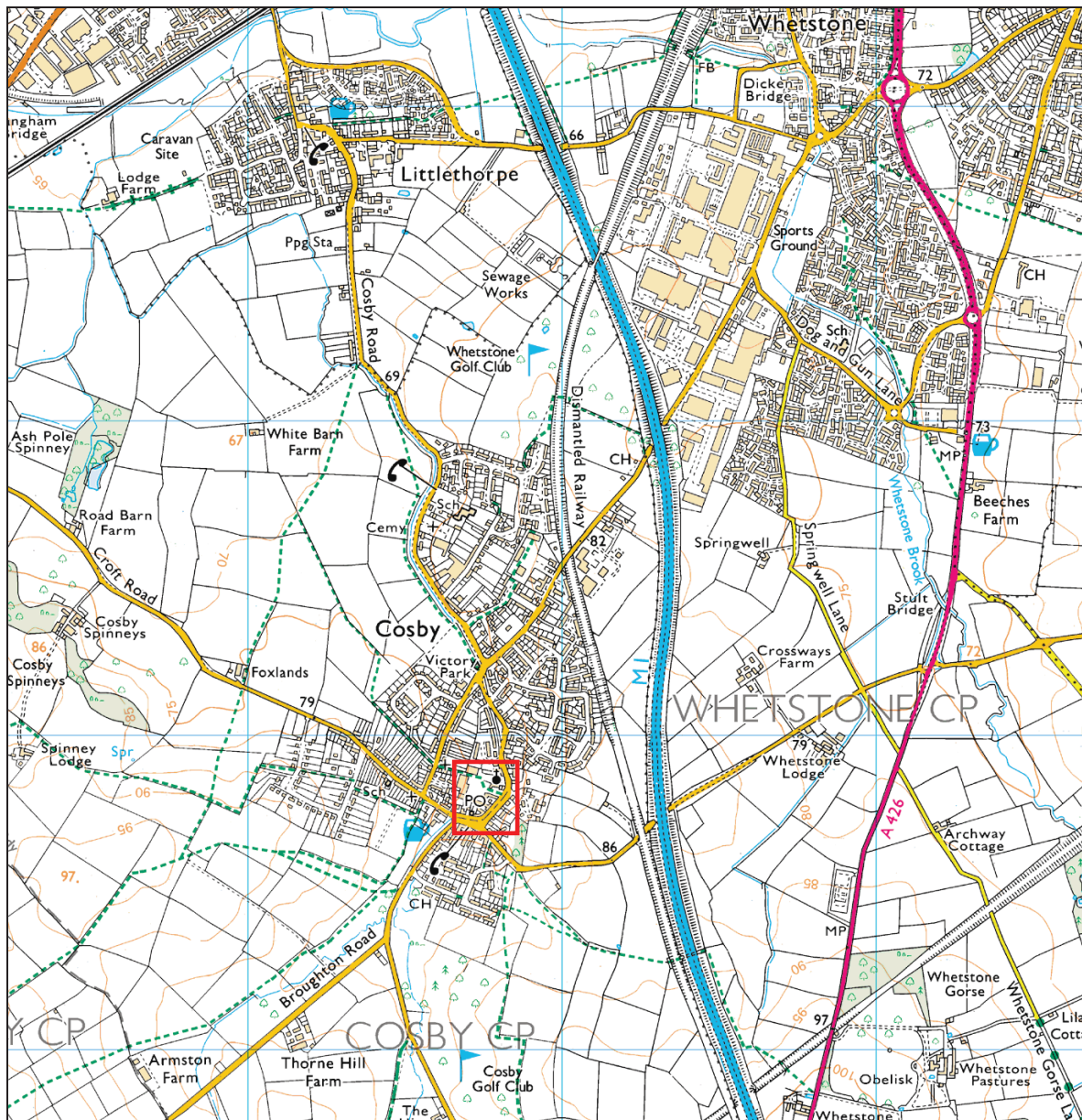


Figure 2 Site Location Plan of Cosby 1:2500

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 Cosby village has early medieval origins and the area of the historic core of the village has been derived from early maps (MLE10440). The site lies within the core and is situated adjacent to The Church of St. Michael and All Angels (MLE11945), which dates originally to the 11th century and contains fabric from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

5. Methodology

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

5.2 All archaeological work adhered 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).

5.3 The archaeological watching brief involved the inspection and recording of groundworks to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

5.4 The main objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- 1. To identify the presence/absence of any 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.

5.5 Any archaeological deposits located were to be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located were to be hand excavated and measured drawings of all archaeological features prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100.

5.6 Archaeological deposits were to 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 was to be paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

5.7 All excavated sections were to be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were to be taken as appropriate.



Figure 3 Site location plan 1:1250

6. Results of the Watching Brief

6.1 During the groundworks an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services to observe the excavation of a service trench for a rear two storey extension, on land at 33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (SP 548 948).

6.2 This work took place on the 7th April 2009.

6.3 Historical plans acquired by the developer revealed that a sewer pipe dating from the 1950's was located in the same position as where the new sewer pipe trench was to be placed. Therefore these groundworks involved re-excavation of the original sewer pipe trench.

6.4 Initial machining out of the 1950's sewer pipe trench had revealed in section made up ground and overburden down to a depth of *c.*0.4m nearest to the house, which increased to *c.*0.6m-0.8m in a westward direction away from the house (figures 4, 5 & 6). Further machining revealed below the overburden layer the natural substratum which consisted of mixed yellow, orange and brown sand which was stained with patches of diesel oil (figure 6). The excavated trench measured *c.*1.1m wide nearest to the house and then was reduced to *c.*0.5m further to the west (figures 4 & 6) and the depth of the trench was *c.*1m.

6.5 Following the excavation of the sewer trench the main area of development (figure 4 – marked in blue) was to be built on platforms due to the nature of the natural sand substratum. This work was to involve excavations that were only to penetrate *c.*0.3m below the ground surface, which was above the base of the modern overburden which was between *c.*0.4m and *c.*0.8m deep (see above).

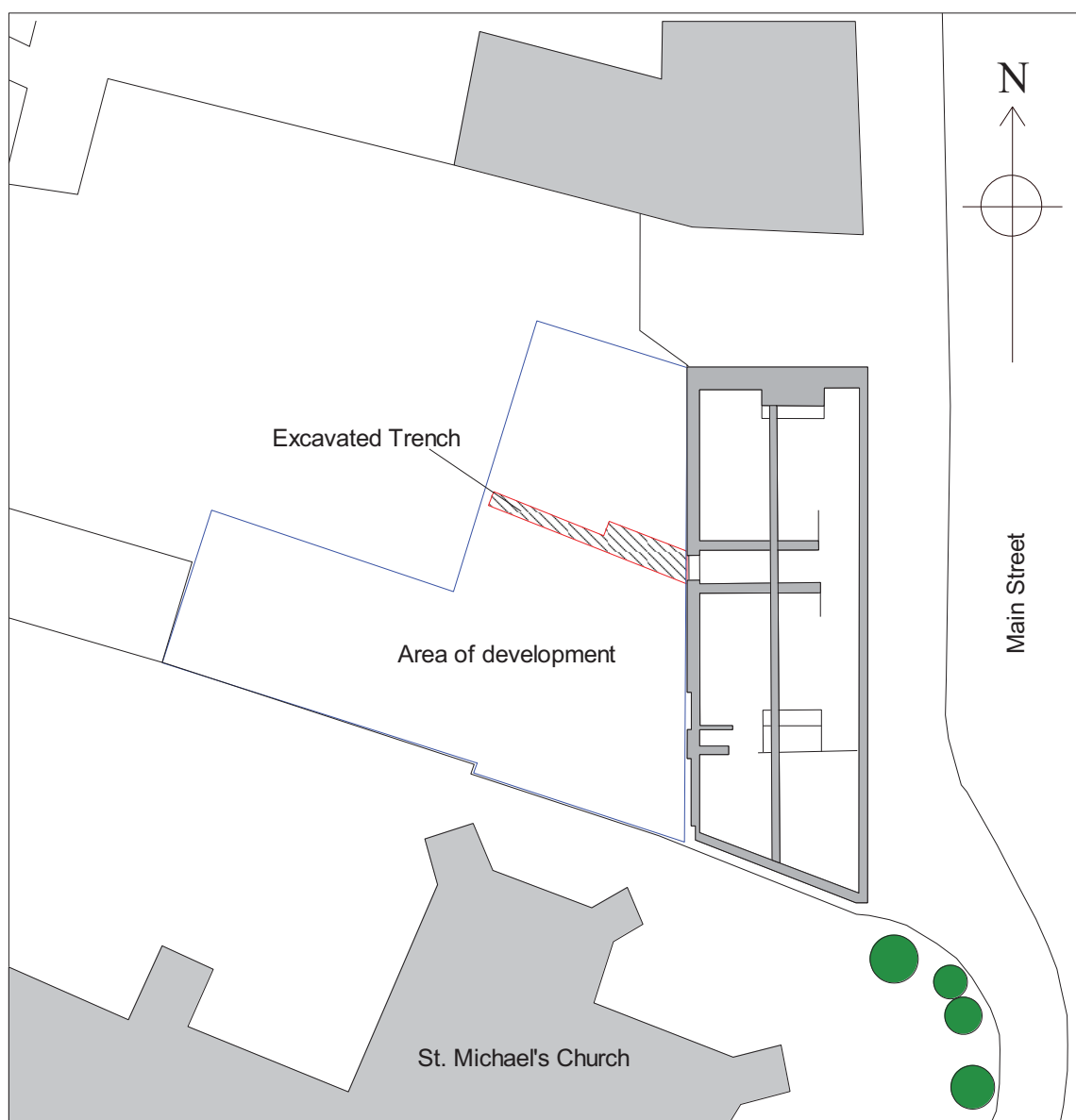


Figure 4 Area of Development (in blue) and area of excavation (in red) 1:100



Figure 5 General view looking east



Figure 6 Re-excavated sewer trench looking west

7. Conclusion

7.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were located during the watching brief excavation of the 1950's sewer trench. The rest of the development site was not subject to archaeological supervision as the excavation of these areas only went down c.0.3m into the overburden layer, which was c.0.4m in depth. As these groundworks were not to penetrate the natural substratum, they were unlikely to pose a threat to any archaeological deposits, if present, which would likely to be sealed below.

8. Acknowledgements

8.1 I would like to thank the clients Isherwood McCann for their assistance and co-operation. Patrick Clay managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Archive

The site archive consisting of paper records and digital colour photographs will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A85.2009].

Archive accession code [X.A85.2009] contents:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Copy of Report: | Watching Brief Recording Sheets: | Digital Colour Photographs: |
| 1 | 1 | 19 |

10. Oasis Information:

| INFORMATION REQUIRED | EXAMPLE |
|----------------------|--|
| Project Name | 33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire |
| Project Type | Watching Brief |
| Project Manager | Patrick Clay |
| Project Supervisor | Greg Jones |
| Previous/Future work | No previous work |
| Current Land Use | Yard |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Development Type | Residential, Extension |
| Reason for Investigation | PPG16 |
| Position in the Planning Process | As a condition |
| Site Co ordinates | NGR: SP 548 948 |
| Start/end dates of field work | 07.04.09 |
| Archive Recipient | Leicestershire |
| Study Area | c. 0.16ha |

11. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2009 *Design Specification for archaeological watching brief on land at 33, Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire, (SP548 948)* ULAS Ref: 09/

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30/04/2009