

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Church Farmhouse, 16, Main Street,
Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire
SK 443 036**

James Patrick



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(NGR 443 036)**

James Patrick

For: Mr and Mrs C. Long

Checked by

Signed



Date: 22/07/09

Name:...Nicholas J. Cooper

Approved by

Signed



Date: 23/07/09

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University Of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Grade II Listed Church Farmhouse, 16, Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (NGR 443 036) during ground-works associated with the installation of a double garage. This was located south of the dwelling at the south-west corner of the associated garden. This involved the machine excavation of foundation trenches for the garage using a mini-digger with a 600mm toothed bucket to a depth of 0.80m below the ground surface. The site lies on the western edge of the present Newbold Verdon village at the west end of Main Street and just a short distance to the south-east of the church of St. James, where the street ends. No archaeological deposits were revealed within the foundation trenches with root disturbance evident throughout and building rubble present within the northern trench. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council with accession number X A 91.2009.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Mr and Mrs C Long during groundworks for a double garage within the house gardens. The area covered approximately 54 square metres. Church Farmhouse, 16 Main Street, Newbold Verdon is a grade II Listed Building dating originally from the 17th century with 18th and 19th century additions (Historic Environment Record HER Ref: MLE11737; Appendix 1).

The archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of planning permission (P.A 04/00295/4) granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following recommendations from the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as their archaeological adviser.

Site Location and Geology

The development area is situated behind Church Farmhouse which fronts on to the south side of Main Street within the village centre just to the south-east of the Parish church of St James. The site lies approximately 2 kilometres to the east of the A447 Hinckley to Ibstock road on flat terrain at a height of c. 130mOD. The geology on which the garage will be situated consists of Triassic mudstones (including “Keuper Marl”, Dolomitic Conglomerate & Rhaetic) as indicated by the Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet number 155.



Figure 1 Site Location

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Archaeological and Historical Background (from Hunt 2006)

Newbold (Niwebold, Newbolt or Neubolt) is referred to in the Domesday survey as being 2 carucates of land held by Hugh de Grandmesnil and 2 carucates of land held by Huard, a Saxon. The name of Newbold suggests a 'new' building, presumably on some ancient place (Nichols 1971). The village attained the prefix 'Verdon' (or 'de Verdun') in the 13th century, after possession of the manor passed to the Verdun family, possibly through marriage. The second Bertrum de Verdun died during the Crusades, and was buried at Acre. It was his son, Nicholas, who presented the first Rector in 1209.

The village passed from the Verdun family, by marriage, to the Crophull family and then to the Devereux family in the 16th century. Later the land became the property of the Earl of Huntingdon and then was split into several hands, including the Bishop of Durham and then to the Montague family in the 18th century.

The estate passed into many different hands throughout the next century and was farmed by several families. Since 1965 it has belonged to Mr J.G. Selkirk (Fox 1987).

Archaeological background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER – formerly Sites and Monuments Record) indicates that the application area is within the medieval core of Newbold Verdon (MLE8376). Church Farmhouse at 16, Main Street (MLE11737) is 17th century in origin.

Prehistoric

There are a few prehistoric finds and sites recorded within the locality of Newbold Verdon. Neolithic or Bronze Age flint finds were discovered south of the George and Dragon (MLE6358). A prehistoric pit alignment was discovered south-west of Newbold Hall (MLE9249). Bronze Age and Iron Age finds have been located at Newbold Spinney (MLE2975) and to the north east of Mill Inn, enclosures dating from the Iron Age have been discovered (MLE2975; MLE2991).

Roman

Roman sites are not well represented close to Newbold Verdon, although finds discovered in the fields east of Heath Farm (MLE2978), suggest Roman occupation somewhere in the area. The aforementioned enclosure (MLE2991) may have been used into the Roman period.

Medieval

Newbold Verdon has its origins in the medieval period and the core of the village has been deduced from historic maps (MLE8376). There are several features of medieval origin in the village, such as the three sided moat (MLE2984), alongside which is the site of the medieval manor house (MLE2985). A deserted medieval village, Brascote (MLE2990), lies 500m to the south of the Newbold. The church of St. James (MLE11732) has early medieval origins with parts of the building dating from the 12th, 13th and 15th century.

Post-medieval

Most of the important buildings within the village of Newbold Verdon are from the post-medieval period, including the Old Rectory (MLE1173). The building dates from 1820 with a later rear wing. The gates and side screens associated with the house (MLE11731) also date from 1820. The Hall (MLE11733) is early 18th century in origin and is now a farmhouse. Most of the farm buildings within the current farm neighbouring the Hall were originally pavilions and are also dated to the early 18th century (MLE11734, MLE11735, MLE11736).

The farmhouse at 16, Main Street) is 17th century in origin, as are the Cob Cottage at 36, Main Street (MLE11738) and Ivy Cottage at 92, Main Street (MLE11739).

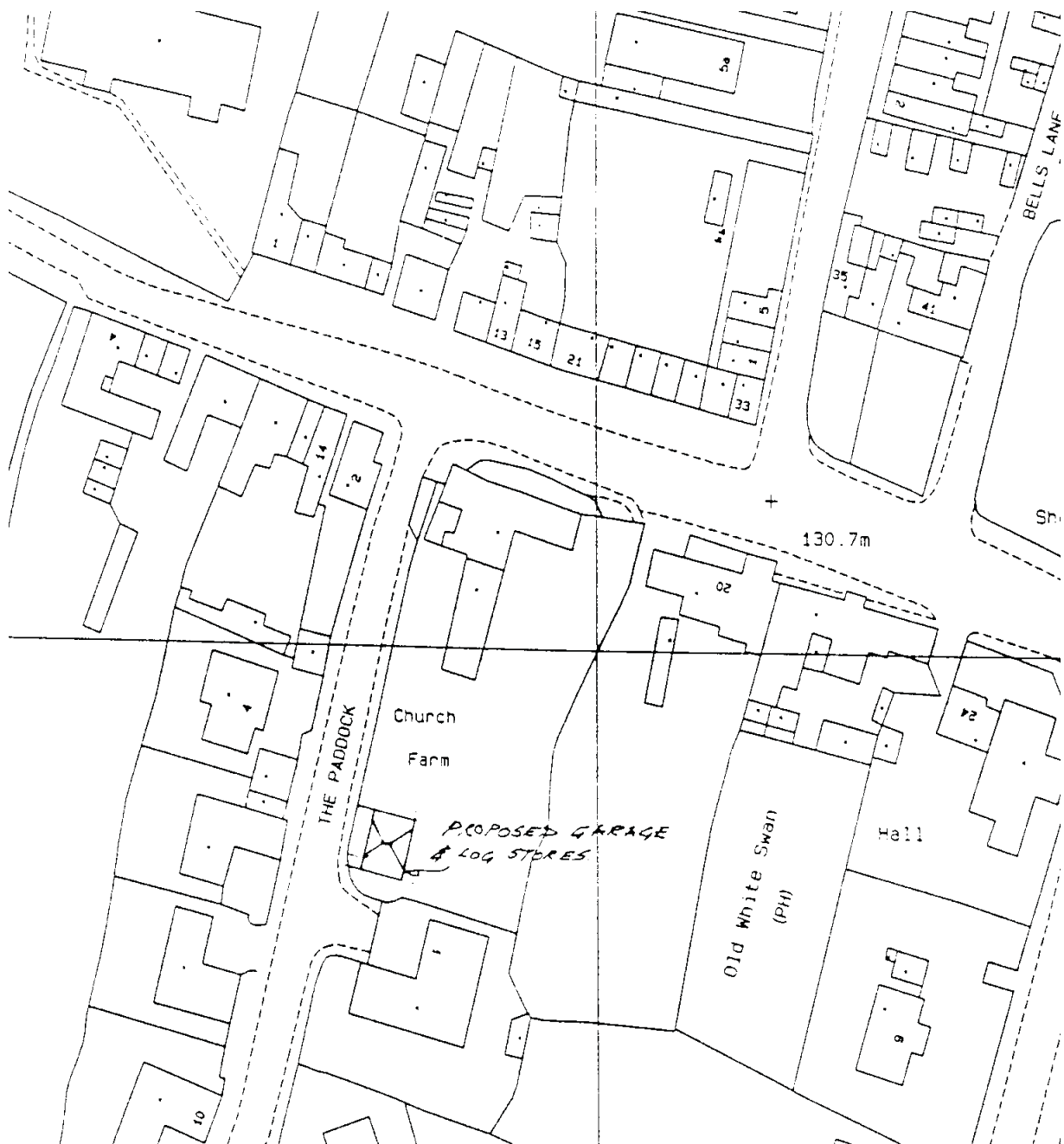


Figure 2 Location of the Development

Aims and Methods

The aim of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and the date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of these archaeological deposits would be carried out where appropriate and an archive and report produce. 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. An archaeologist visited the site on 7th of May 2009 and the groundworks were observed. The foundation trenches were excavated for the erection of a timber double garage and measured 0.80m with a depth of 1.0m below the ground surface.

Results

The development footprint for the new garage covered approximately 54 square metres. The foundation trenches were excavated to depth of 1.0m and to a width of 0.80m with a 600mm toothed bucket of a mini digger. Six separate foundation trenches were excavated around the footprint of the garage which only received a shallow scraping off of the topsoil (c.0.10m).

A light orange-brown natural substratum was revealed in the foundation trenches at a depth of c.0.5m which was quite stoney with a clayey sand consistency. The substratum became more clayey further down. Despite the toothed bucket, the view of the surface natural was good due to the good excavation methodology by the machine driver. However no archaeological features were seen in plan or cutting through the machine sections. Much of the site had been disturbed by extensive root activity which disturbed the natural surface. Also the northern foundation trench area was also disturbed by previous farm buildings with house bricks and some slate roof tile found within the topsoil.

Conclusion

No archaeological features were revealed or any artefactual evidence recovered. The foundation trenches for the buildings walls provided only a keyhole view within the footprint of the development. It appeared that north of the northern foundation trench, previous farm buildings may have disturbed the substrata, hence any features which had been there would have been severely truncated towards the existing dwelling and outbuildings from the former farm. Root disturbance may also have truncated any existing features, if present.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council (Acc No. X.A 97.2009) and consists of the following:

1 Watching brief recording form.

10 Digital colour photographs

1 copy of the report

Acknowledgements and Publication

ULAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Long for their co-operation. James Patrick undertook the watching brief and Dr Patrick Clay was the project manager. A summary of this work will be published in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Bibliography

Fox, D., 1987, *The History of the Church and Parish of Newbold de Verdun*. Church Leaflet

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James Patrick
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: jrp3@le.ac.uk

15.07.2009



Plate 1: Pre-excavation view of the area for garage development.



Plate 2 Excavation of foundation trenches in progress



Plate 3: Excavation of trench to foundation depth. View of south-east corner



Plate 4 View of excavated foundation trenches looking south-east

Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Church farmhouse, 16, main Street, Newbold verdon, Leicester (SK 443 036).
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	James Patrick
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New double garage
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR : SK 443 036
Start/end dates of field work	
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire City Council
Study Area *	Approx 54 square metres

Appendix 2 Listed building description

NEWBOLD VERDON MAIN STREET SK 40 SW (south side) 5/40 No. 16 and fence 14. 4. 86 (Church Farmhouse) II Farmhouse and fence. Late C18 enclosing late C17 timber framing, some C19 alterations and early C20 addition. Red brick in Flemish bond, Swithland slate roof having single ridge and gable brick stacks, plain tiles to rear, wrought iron. Lobby entry plan. 2 storey 4 bay front with first floor band and corbelled eaves cornice. Off centre 6 panelled door with bordered overlight and narrow hood is flanked by single glazing bar sashes, to right is a single 2 light casement. To first floor are 2 further glazing bar sashes with a 2 light plain casement to right. All windows have segmental brick heads. To right is a lower early C20 service block with plain tiled roof. It has a glazing bar sash to the ground floor and a pair of fixed light windows to the upper. Interior retains a C19 stair and a stopped and chamfered C17 beam in the rear wing. To the front is a C19 wrought iron fence on the street boundary.

Appendix 3 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Church Farm, 16, Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 443 036

Client: Mr & Mrs C Long

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 04/00295/4

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 an archaeological watching brief, during ground works for the erection of a new double garage at Church Farm, 16, Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SK 444 036) (Planning application No. 04/00295/4).

1.2 It addresses the requirements detailed in the advice provided by Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority.

1.3 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).

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The site is located at Church Farm, 16, Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire and a planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new double garage.

2.1.2 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have detailed the level of archaeological work required (their 'brief' of 24.04.2009).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is within the historic core of the medieval village of Newbold Verdon (SMR Ref. No. 40SW CS) and near a Scheduled Ancient Monument (40SW BM), which consists of a medieval moated site and post-medieval house. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development

3 Aims

3.1 *Archaeological watching brief.* Through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of 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 examination of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. If any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

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, Leicestershire County Council, and the coroner 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, Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

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 A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments 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 the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services 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 watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception 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

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum 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

05.05.2009

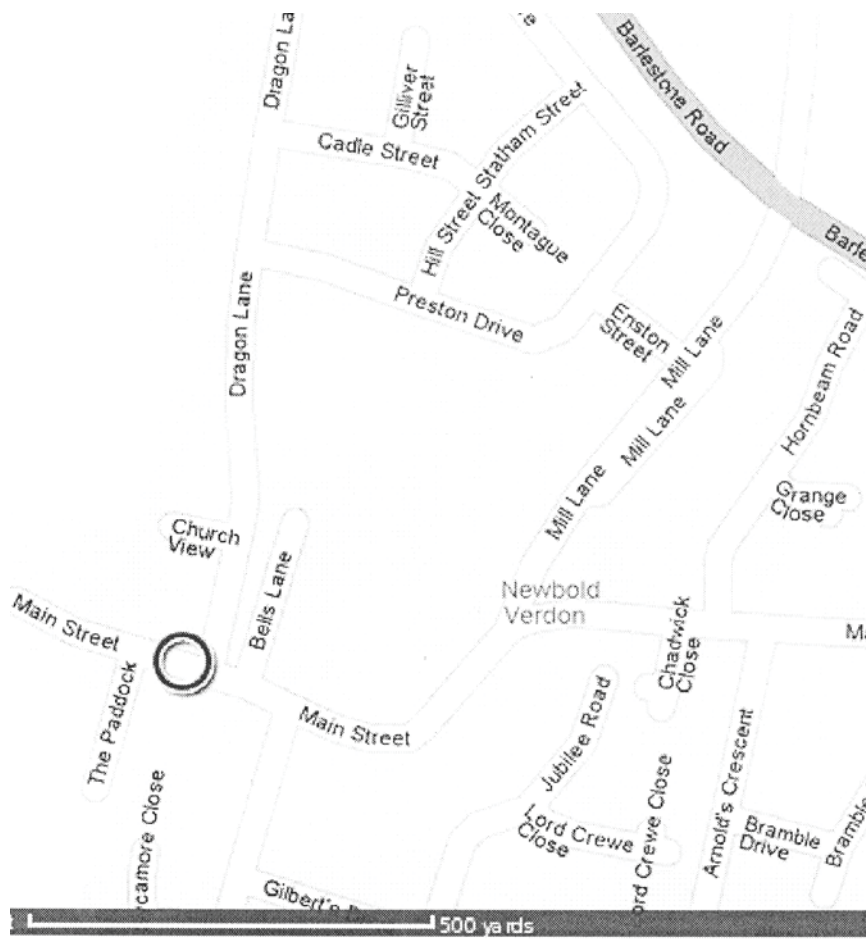


Fig 1 Location of Church Farm

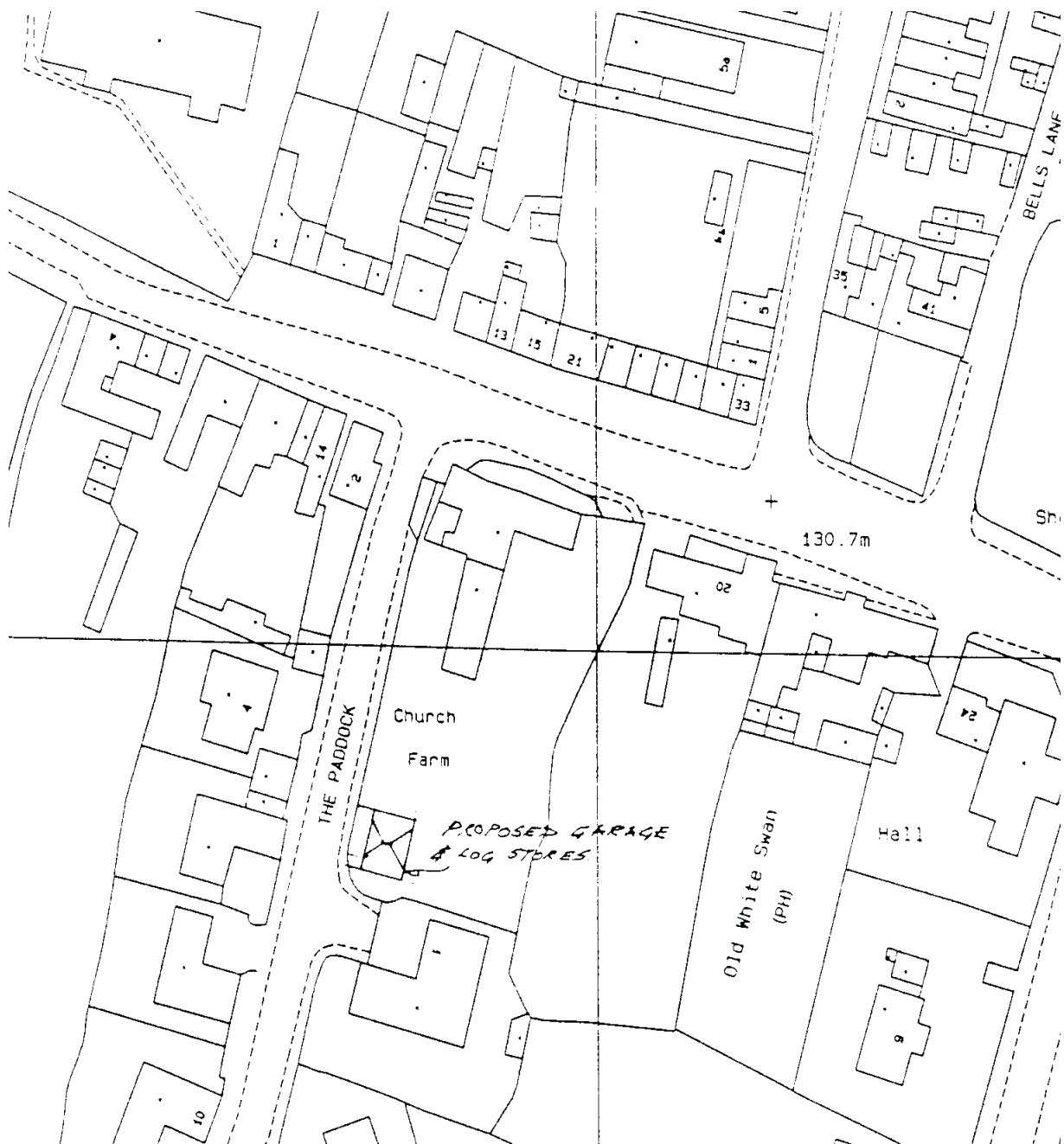


Fig. 1 Location of development

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Job title: Church Farm, 16, Main Street, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 444 036

Client: Mr & Mrs C Long

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application Nos. 04/00295/4

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve inspection of buildings and observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be

maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Patrick Clay
05.05.2009