



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief at
31, Main Street, Queniborough,
Leicestershire
(SK 647 122)

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological watching brief at
31, Main Street, Queniborough,
Leicestershire
(SK 647 122)**

Leon Hunt

**for:
Mr Stephen Rollings**

Checked by

Signed:

Date:

Name:

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 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 122)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS at 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 122) during ground-works associated with the construction of an extension to the existing property.

The site lies within the historic medieval core of the village and close to the find-spot for Anglo-Saxon pottery and a possible medieval house.

The ground-works consisted of a series of foundation trenches excavated partially within the footprint of an old extension and partially within a garden and yard area.

Prior to the trenches, clearance of the ground revealed a brick built soft water tank dating to the 19th century.

The ground-works also uncovered a brick plinth or floor of unknown date, which appeared to be contemporary with the existing 18th-19th century house and is probably the remains of an earlier extension to the rear of the property.

No other archaeological features or artefacts were discovered during the watching brief.

An archive will be produced for the project and will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council with accession number X.A146.2010.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 122) during ground-works associated with the construction of an extension to the existing property.

The work was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; Planning and the historic environment) and involved archaeological attendance for inspection and recording within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

The site lies within the historic settlement core of the village (**MLE795**) and adjacent to the find-spot for Anglo-Saxon pottery (**MLE6109**) and a possible medieval house (**MLE6109**) and there was the possibility that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the development.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The site lies to the rear of the property at 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 647 122) within an area that once contained a previous extension to the house, part of the garden associated with the house and a now demolished building (Figures 1 & 2).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be river gravel.

The site lies at a height of approximately 61.7m aOD and the land slopes gently to the south-west. The total site area is approximately 630 square metres.

Prior to the archaeological inspection the previous extension had been removed and the area had been cleared of rubble and vegetation (Plate 1).



Figure 1: Site location. Scale 1: 10 000

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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 these 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 archaeological work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* prepared by ULAS (Appendix).

The excavation was undertaken by mini-digger fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket. Foundation trenches were examined during and after excavation and spoil heaps were inspected for the presence of archaeological artefacts.



Figure 2: Site location plan. Scale 1: 1250

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Results

The removal of the extension and clearing of the garden prior to the watching brief had exposed a water tank, covered with a slate roof, lying around 0.6m from the rear wall of the property (Plate 2). This measured 2.6m by 1m and was approximately 2m deep. The tank was brick built with the bricks lying on edge.

The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of around 1.1m and were between 0.7m and 1m wide. The excavation revealed around 0.3m of mid-brown sandy topsoil overlying the natural sub-stratum of orange sand, with some medium size pebbles within the sand at intervals (Plate 3).

The section against the neighbouring property to the east revealed a greater depth of topsoil (around 0.55m) under gravel and the concrete of the neighbouring driveway. Further south-west the brick foundations of the neighbouring garage were revealed (Plate 4).

Within the southernmost section of the trenches a layer of roughly laid bricks could be seen lying above the topsoil (Plate 5).

A short brick plinth, consisting of three courses of brick was revealed within the section at the north-eastern edge of the site. This jutted out around 1.1m from the rear wall of the property. Its width was not revealed by the trench excavation, although the trench to the west did not reveal the plinth (Plate 6).

The trenches at the front of the site were excavated to a similar depth, but contained a thinner layer of topsoil (around 0.15m deep) over orange sand and sand and gravel. No features were revealed on this part of the site, although a damaged drain could be seen in section (Plate 7).

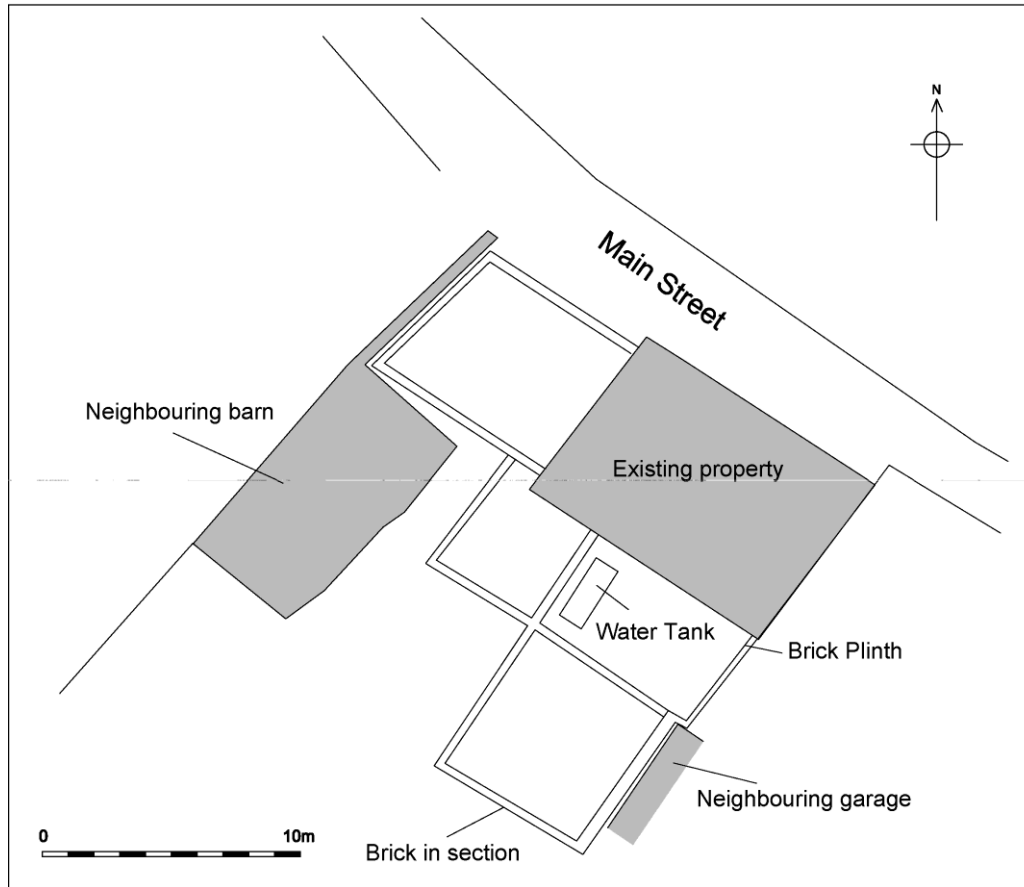


Figure 3: Plan of observations during watching brief

Conclusion

The water storage tank is most likely 19th century in origin and of a design fairly commonly used during the 19th century. The house itself is most likely late 18th-early 19th century in date (Neil Finn. pers. comm.)

The function of the brick plinth was possibly as part of a floor base associated with an earlier phase of the house. The extension, which had been removed prior to the ground-works, had been keyed in to the earlier build (see Plate 5) and the plinth appeared to follow the line of the earlier build. Presumably the demolished extension had replaced an earlier room or utility space to the rear of the house.

The bricks in section at the south-western end of the site had been laid directly on top of the topsoil and most likely represent a roughly laid surface within the garden.

No other features were discovered during the watching brief and no artefacts were recovered during the work.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mr. Rollings and the builder Terry Edwards for their help and co-operation with this project. Leon Hunt would like to thank Neil Finn for help with building identification and dating.

Leon Hunt carried out the watching brief and the project was managed by Patrick Clay.

Archive

An archive will be produced and will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Communities and Wellbeing Service (Museums) with accession number X.A146.2010.

The archive will consist of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2010-152)
- 1 Watching brief recording sheet
- 1 Photographic record#
- 1 Contact sheet digital photographs
- 1 CD Digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet B&W photographs
- 1 Set B&W negatives

Leon Hunt

ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: lh90@le.ac.uk
25/08/10



Plate 1: The site prior to the ground-works, looking east



Plate 2: The brick water tank, looking south-east



Plate 3: Trenches against neighbouring property, looking south-west



Plate 4: North-east facing section at south-western end of site, showing bricks in section



Plate 5: Brick plinth at north-east edge of site, looking north-west



Plate 6: Foundations completed, looking south



Plate 7: South-west facing section of street frontage trench, looking north

Appendix I: Design Specification for Archaeological Work:

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 647 122

Client: Mr Stephen Rollings

Planning Authority: Charnwood Borough Council P.A 10/0396/2

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the historic Environment), 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 proposed new dwelling and garage at 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire.

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 archaeological work involves attendance (a watching brief) within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

2.2.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic settlement core of Queniborough.

2.2.3 The proposal are likely to include the excavation of footings and the introduction of services, etc., that will damage or destroy buried archaeological remains, if present, within the development area.

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 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.

4.4 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 and the planning authority 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 and the planning authority.

4.9 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 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. Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk> 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, at present scheduled for 23.08.2010. 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., *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for
2008 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

16.08.2010

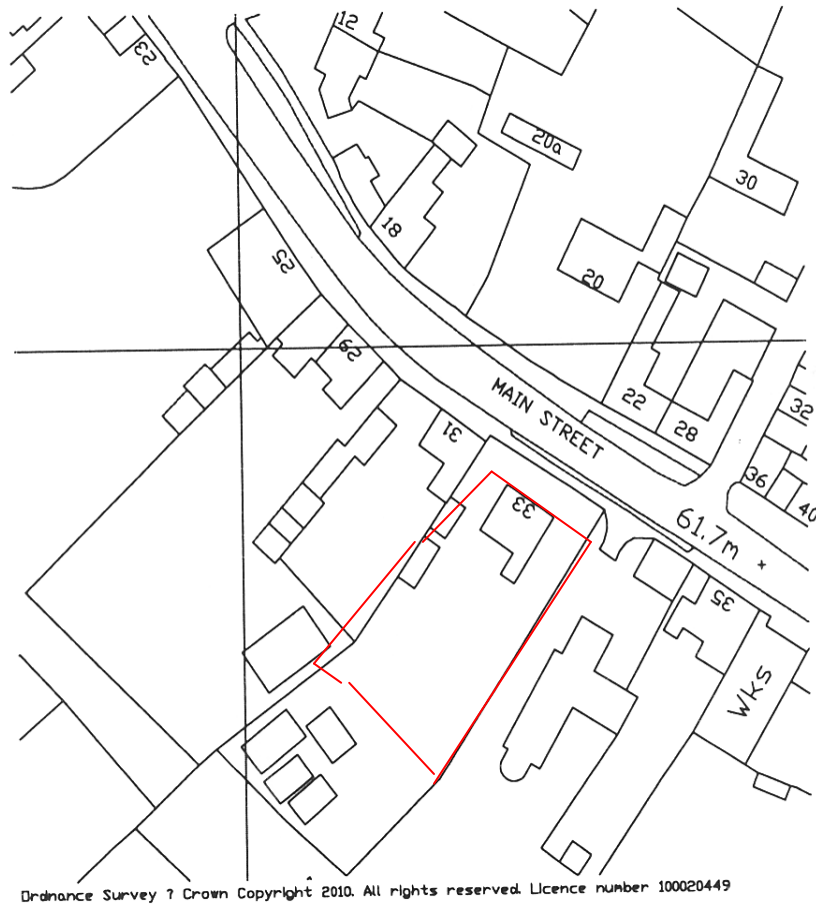


Figure 1 Location of the application area

Appendix II: Oasis Information

Project Name	An archaeological watching brief at 31, Main Street, Queniborough, Leicestershire (SK 647 122)
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	L Hunt
Previous/Future work	Not known
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Extension to existing property
Reason for Investigation	Planning request
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination
Site Co ordinates	SK 647 122
Start/end dates of field work	23-08-2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	630 sq m

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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