

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 17 CHAPEL STREET EATON, LEICESTERSHIRE

on behalf of Mr G Shephard



by
David Fell BA MA MIFA

December 2004

ASC: 631/ECS/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	ECS	<i>Project no:</i>	631
<i>County:</i>	Leicestershire		
<i>District:</i>	Melton		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Eaton		
<i>Parish:</i>	Eaton CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SK 796 289		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.550 sq. m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of extension and garage		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.100 sq m		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/00653/FUL		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr G.B. Shephard		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Ben Shephard		
<i>Telephone</i>	-	<i>Fax:</i>	-

Internal Quality Check

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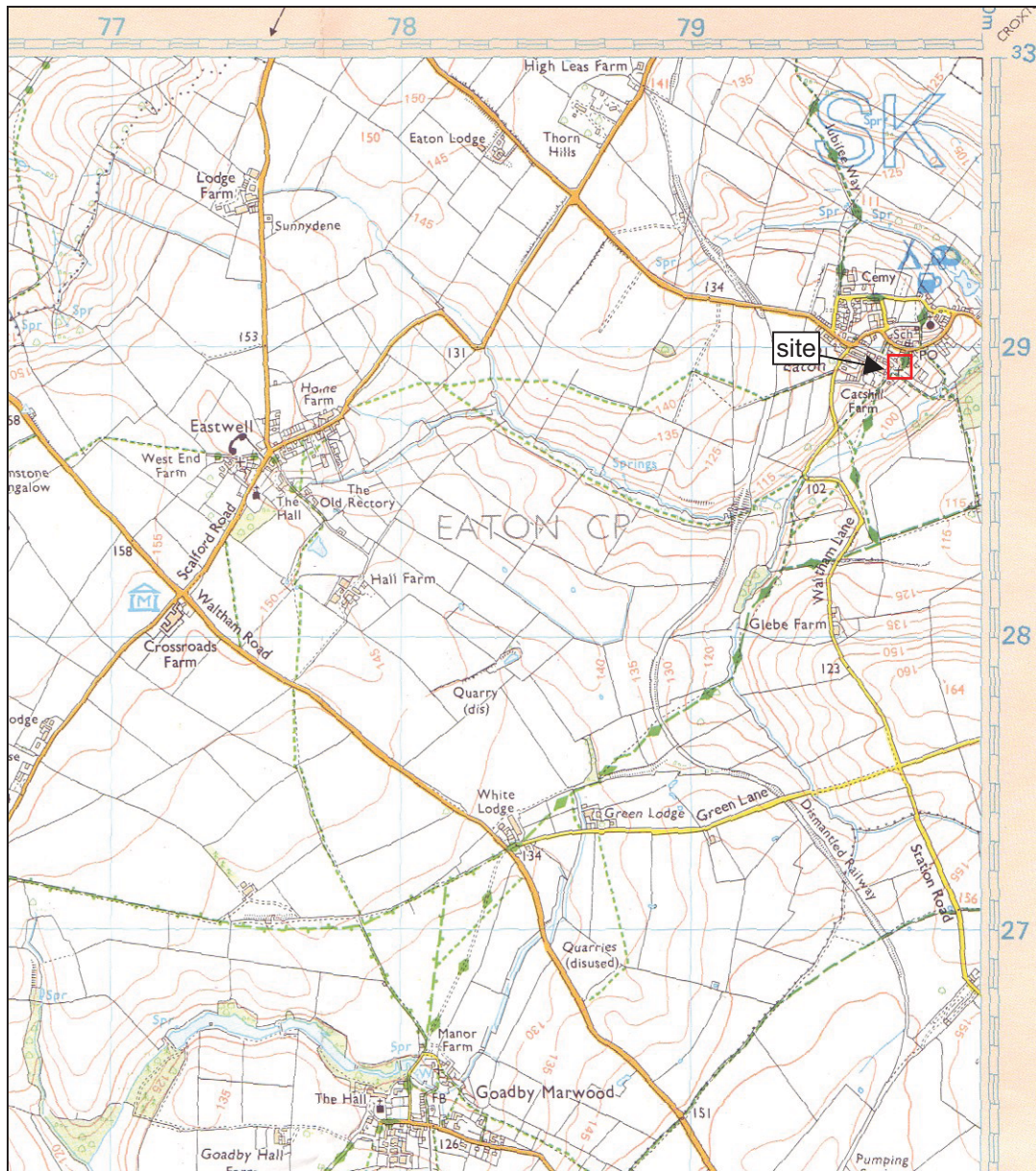


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In December 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for an extension and detached garage at 17 Chapel Street, Eaton, Leicestershire. The site was within the medieval core of the village and the works had the potential to damage or destroy significant archaeological remains.

The area has been truncated, notably on the south east site, probably during the construction of an adjacent Methodist church. Elsewhere in the site the soil layers were extremely thin, providing a further indication of past truncation. The excavation of a terrace for the extension and footings for the garage were monitored, but no archaeological remains were observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Mr B Shephard is undertaking development at 17 Chapel Street, Eaton, Leicestershire. The developer applied to *Melton District Council* for planning permission in support of the development (planning application no. 04/00653/FUL) and, in line with the guidance contained in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning* the Planning Archaeologist of *Leicestershire County Council* advised that the site may be archaeologically sensitive, required the developer to commission an archaeological watching brief during the works and issued a *brief* for the project (Clark 2004).

1.2 The developer commissioned *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) to undertake the work and, initially, to prepare a project design. The present document comprises the final report on the works.

1.3 *Reason for Work*

The work was necessary because the extension, garage and associated works had the potential to damage or destroy significant archaeological remains

1.4 *Setting*

1.4.1 The village of Eaton is located in east Leicestershire, 11km NNE of Melton Mowbray and 13km south-west of Grantham (Fig. 1). 17 Chapel Street is located in the historic core of Eaton, at NGR SK 796 (Fig. 2). The property occupies a roughly rectangular area of *c.*550 sq. m, bordered to the north-east by Chapel Street, to the south-east by a track leading to Cotshill Farm, and by residential development on the remaining sides.

1.4.2 The site lies at an elevation of *c.*122m AOD, on a south-east facing slope. Soils in the area belong to the Banbury association (Soil Survey 1983, 544) described as ‘well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils over ironstone. Some deep fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging.’ The underlying geology comprises ironstone.

- 1.4.3 There are two structures on the Chapel Street site, a house and outbuilding, both located at the north end of the site (Fig. 3). Access to the site is from Chapel Street: the site level is significantly higher than the road.
- 1.4.4 The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Eaton. Two undated burials were found to the south-east of the site (SMR 72NE BZ), and an early road surface and undated boundary stone are recorded to the north-west (SMR 72NE CQ & BY). Other remains recorded in the area include the medieval church (SMR 72NE AM) and post-medieval pottery (SMR 72NE CR).
- 1.4.5 The development comprises the construction of an extension to the existing house and the construction of a detached garage (Fig. 3).

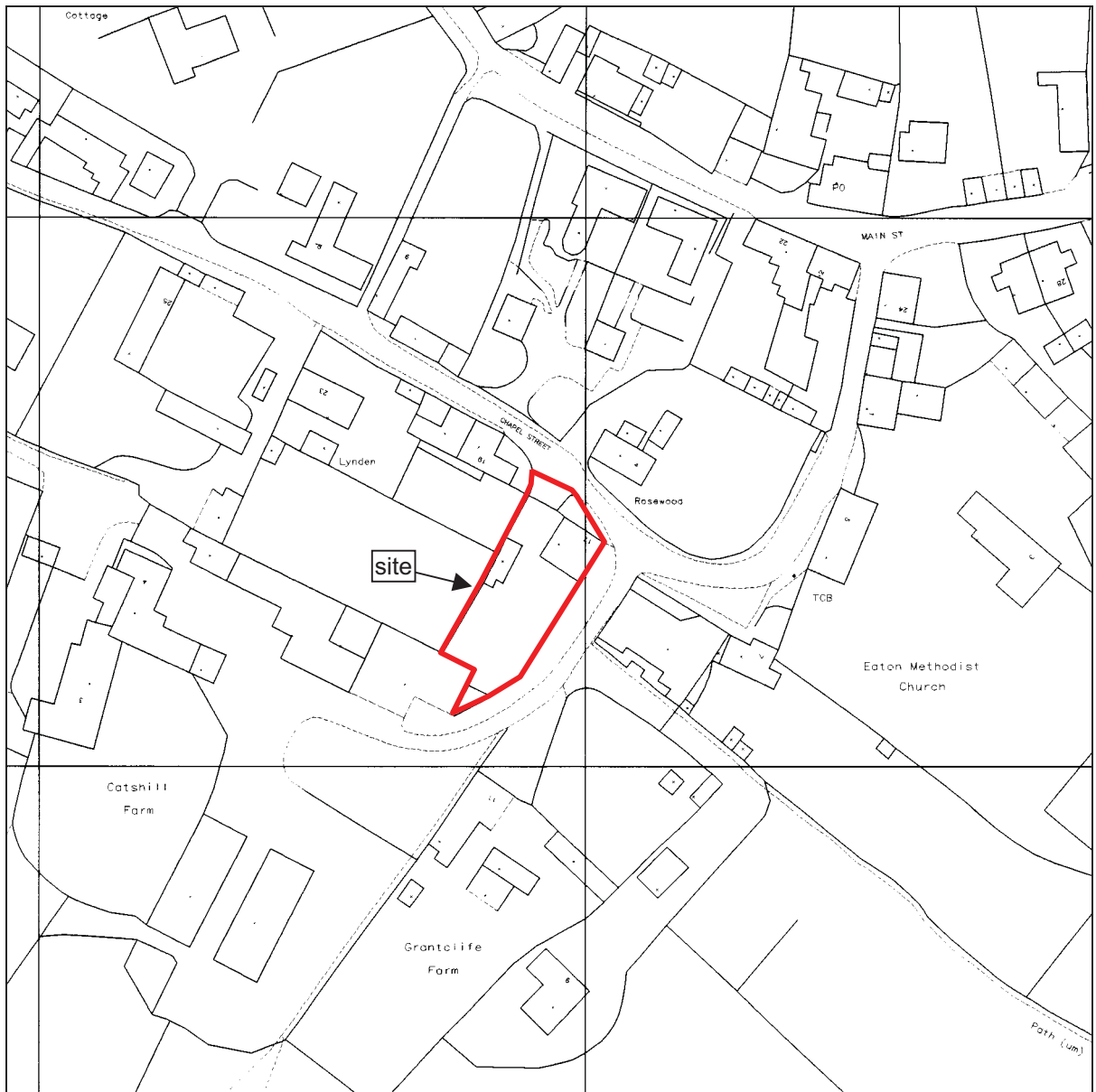


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1,250)

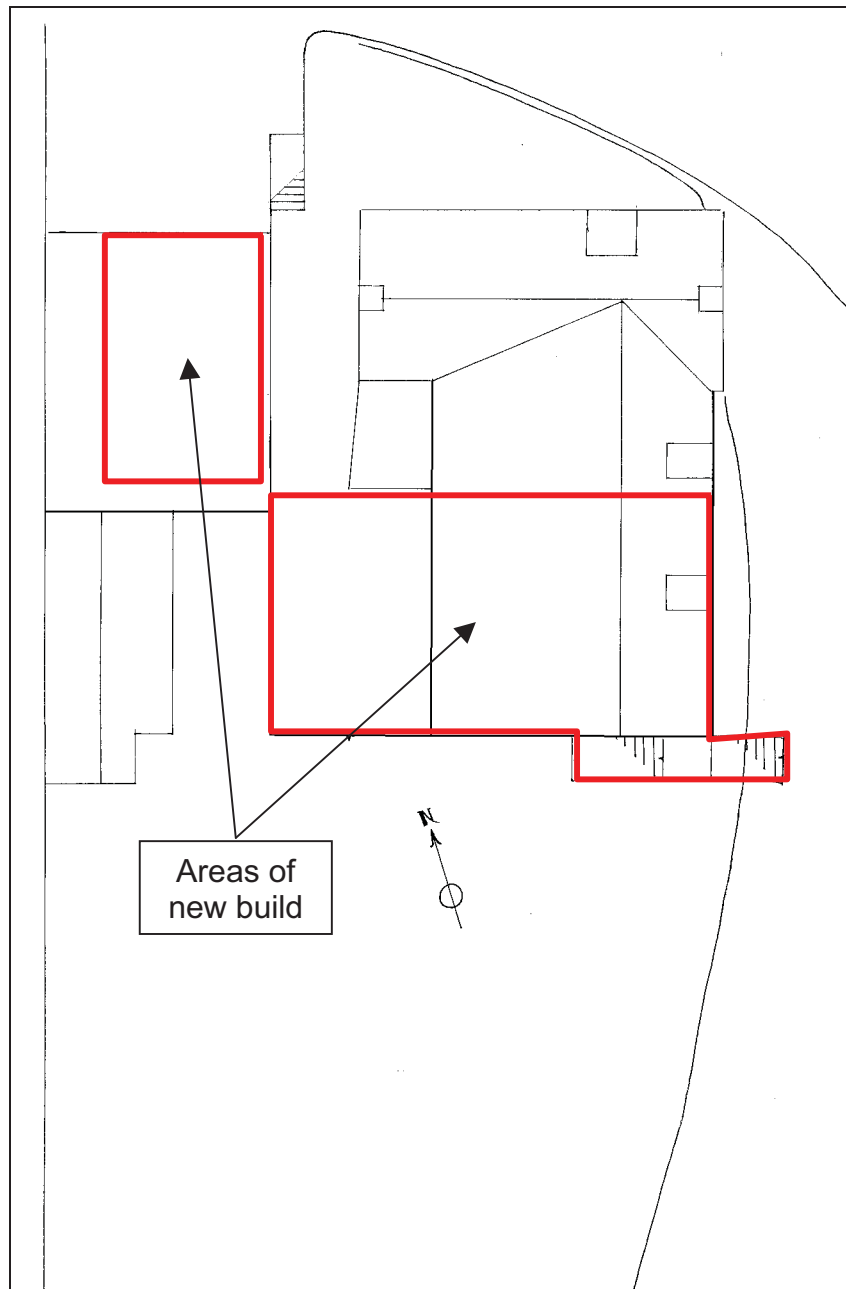


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:200)

2 Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with the requirements of the *brief*, the aim of the watching brief was:

- To identify and record archaeological deposits during development

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the *brief*, which required:

- Preparation of a project design
- A watching brief on groundworks (reduction of levels, excavation of trenches for footings and services) for the development
- Provision for dealing with significant archaeological deposits
- Preparation of a report (this document)
- Preparation and deposition of the project archive

2.3 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS 1997), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3 Results

3.1 Two visits were made to the site on 8th and 17th December 2004 in both overcast and sunny conditions. Full co-operation was received from the building contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the watching brief.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 The existing vegetation within the garden had been removed, to reveal the topsoil (Plate 1). The soil was inspected but no archaeological remains were visible in the topsoil.

3.2.2 The ground reduction for the extension was monitored. The soil layers were removed using a mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision (Plate 2). There was little or no distinction between topsoil and subsoil and the soil accumulation was noticeably thin. The soil was *c.*10cm thick and it likely that the soils had been truncated in the past, perhaps during the construction of the house and its outbuildings. A small quantity of modern debris was present in the soil, but no archaeological remains were observed.

3.2.3 The ground reduction for the extension continued below the truncated soil, into the underlying geology. This comprised ironstone and was excavated to a depth of *c.*1.5m. This is below the level at which archaeological remains would be present.

3.2.4 A church had been constructed on the southeast of the site, probably during the late 19th century. This building is at a significantly lower level than the building at 17 Chapel Lane, and it likely that the land in this area was terraced for the construction of the chapel (Plate 4). An artificial slope, topped by a stone retaining wall was the southern part of the site. The southeast part of the extension cut into this slope, but no archaeological remains were observed.

3.2.5 Cutting of the footprint for the garage was also monitored. The base level for the garage is *c.*70cm beneath the existing ground surface and comprised a cut through the soil profile, into the underlying strata. The soil on the southeast of the garage, adjacent to the existing house was *c.*2-5cm thick and had obviously been truncated, probably during the construction of the house or during the laying of a tarmac path, which ran along the site of the house and partially into the garden. The soil was thicker to the north, but was mixed and contained obviously modern building debris. No topsoil/subsoil division was present. The lower part of the footprint was cut into the natural geology and archaeological remains were not observed during the groundworks for the garage.

3.3 Conclusions

No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were observed during the watching brief. It is unlikely that archaeological remains were present on the site and the archaeological impact of the development is considered to be minimal.

Monitoring of the excavation of the footprints for the extension and garage did not reveal archaeological remains or artefacts and it is unlikely that remains were present

in these areas. The soil had been truncated and had any remains been present, they are likely to have been destroyed during the previous truncation.

The layout of the site is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1891 (Fig. 4). This shows the existing building and outhouse with open land to the rear of the plot. The layout did not alter significantly during the 20th century, with the exception that the land on the southeast side of the site may have been truncated, to allow for the construction of the adjacent church.



Plate 1: General view of the site



Plate 2: Excavation of the footprint of the extension



Plate 3: Excavation of the garage footprint



Plate 4: Terracing on the south-east side of the site



Figure 4: Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey map (scale = 1: 10,560)

4. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr Garth Shephard for sponsoring the watching brief and to Mr Ben Shephard for assistance and co-operation on site. Richard Clark MA AIFA, Senior planning Archaeologist of *Leicestershire County Council* acted as curatorial monitor.

The fieldwork was undertaken for *ASC Ltd* by David Fell BA MA MIFA. The report was prepared by David Fell and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

5. Archive

5.1 The project archive will comprise:


1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs/slides
7. Colour slides
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service: ref. no: X.A11.2006

6. Bibliography

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- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- LMARS 1997 *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland*. Leicestershire CC Museums, Arts and Records Service
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Zeepvat R J 2004 *17 Chapel Street, Eaton, Leicestershire. Project Design for Watching Brief*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. **631/ECS/1**

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: EATON, CHAPEL LANE 17		Project No/Code: 631 / ECS		Sheet: of		
		Date of visit: 8 DECEMBER 2004				
Client/Developer: MR STEPHARD						
Contact: Ben Shephard				Phone:		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7.30am		Finish: 5.30pm.		
Completed by: DF						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Warm and sunny. Strong shadow						
Observations: Arrive on site c.9am. Site clearance operations commenced. Vegetation cleared to reveal topsoil. No archaeological remains observed. Ground reduction operations for extension commence 10am. Topsoil and subsoil layers thin (little/no distinction between them) c10cm thick at most. Soil has obviously been truncated in the past notably on the SE side where terracing for the adjacent church and farm access road has taken place. No archaeological remains observed.						
Comments: A further visit required to monitor excavation of footings for the garage						
DF 8/12/04						

For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: EATON, 17 CHAPEL LANE		Project No/Code: BS11 ECS	Sheet: 2 of 2
		Date of visit: 17 DECEMBER 2004	
Client/Developer: MR SHEPHERD			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start:	Finish:	
Completed by: DF			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: RAIN !			
Observations: Monitoring of the excavation of the foot print for the garage. As with other areas the ground is disturbed. Upper soil layer is very mixed - topsoil mixed with obviously modern building debris - broken bricks, etc and tree roots. The area closest to the existing house has a thin layer of tarmac with only a very thin layer of soil 2-5cm at most, before natural rock is reached. The base level for the garage foundations is approx 70cm below the existing ground level - though this varies as the ground level slopes towards Chapel Lane. The foot print is cut into the natural strata. No archaeological remains present and the ground probably disturbed in the past. ND A gap has been left between the garage & the wall for stability.			
Comments: No further visits necessary			
The NW side for stability.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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