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LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Watching Brief)
at the Church of St James the Greater,
Dadlington, Leicestershire
Sculpture Trail 'The Healing' (Site 4).
NGR: SP 40359 98064**

Nathan Flavell



Site Name: The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire. Sculpture Trail, 'The Healing' Site 4.

Grid Ref: SP 40359 98064

Author: Nathan Flavell

Client: Bosworth 1485 (Leicestershire Promotions Limited)

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth District Council

Planning Ref: DAC Ref: 2018-024355

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Cover photo: The Church and Church Hall

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OASIS Information

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| | Project Name | An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire | | |
| | Start/end dates | 30th October 2023 – 28th May 2024 | | |
| | Previous/Future Work | No | | |
| | Project Type | Watching brief | | |
| | Site Status | Church of St James Grade II* listed LB1074245 | | |
| | Current Land Use | Church and Churchyard | | |
| | Monument Type/Period | None | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | Pot, tile, bone, glass, clay pipe, FE nails | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | Required by Leicester Diocese | | |
| | Position in the Planning Process | | | |
| Planning Ref. | DAC Ref: 2018-024355 | | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | County | Leicestershire | | |
| | Site Address/Postcode | The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire CV13 6JB | | |
| | Study Area | 0.18ha | | |
| | Site Coordinates | SP 40359 98064 | | |
| | Height OD | 112m | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | Organisation | University of Leicester Archaeological Services | | |
| | Project Brief Originator | LCC Planning | | |
| | Project Design Originator | University of Leicester Archaeological Services | | |
| | Project Manager | Mathew Beamish | | |
| | Project Director/Supervisor | Nathan Flavell | | |
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An archaeological watching brief for Sculpture Trail Site 4, 'The Healing' at The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire.

Nathan Flavell

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in the grounds of The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire CV13 6JB. The work was undertaken between 30th October – 28th May 2024 on behalf of Leicestershire Promotions Limited as part of the Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail works. The project includes four installations of which this 'The Healing' comprises carved stone seats spanning a grass bank either side of church path.

An area was excavated for through an existing footpath and graveyard soil under archaeological observation. No archaeological features were uncovered.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession number X.A152.2022

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, (MHCLG 2021) this document forms the report for archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) at The Church of St James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire CV13 6JB.

The work was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Leicestershire Promotions Limited.

Planning permission has been granted for several new sculptures to be erected around the historic battlefield site as part of a sculpture trail. The trail is designed to follow the course of the battle across the installation sites. The sites include St. James Church, Sutton Cheney ('The Calm Before the Storm, Site 1), a pasture field off Fenn Lanes, Dadlington the subject of this report ('The Storm Breaks', Site 2), at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre ('Piecing Together the Past', Site 5) and at the subject of this report St. James the Great, Dadlington ('The Healing', Site 4)(Figure 1).

'The Healing' represents the process of healing after the conflict of the Wars of the Roses. The proposal was for the installation of a new sculpture of carved stone seats spanning a grass bank either side of church path, one in red stone and one in white representing the Yorkist and Lancastrian elements of the civil war.

The sites are subject to archaeological conditions the results of which will be reported separately. At Site 4, a Written Scheme of Investigation outlined archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (watching brief) during any groundworks for the proposed development in order to record any archaeological remains that may be present and mitigate the impacts of the scheme.

Location, Topography & Geology

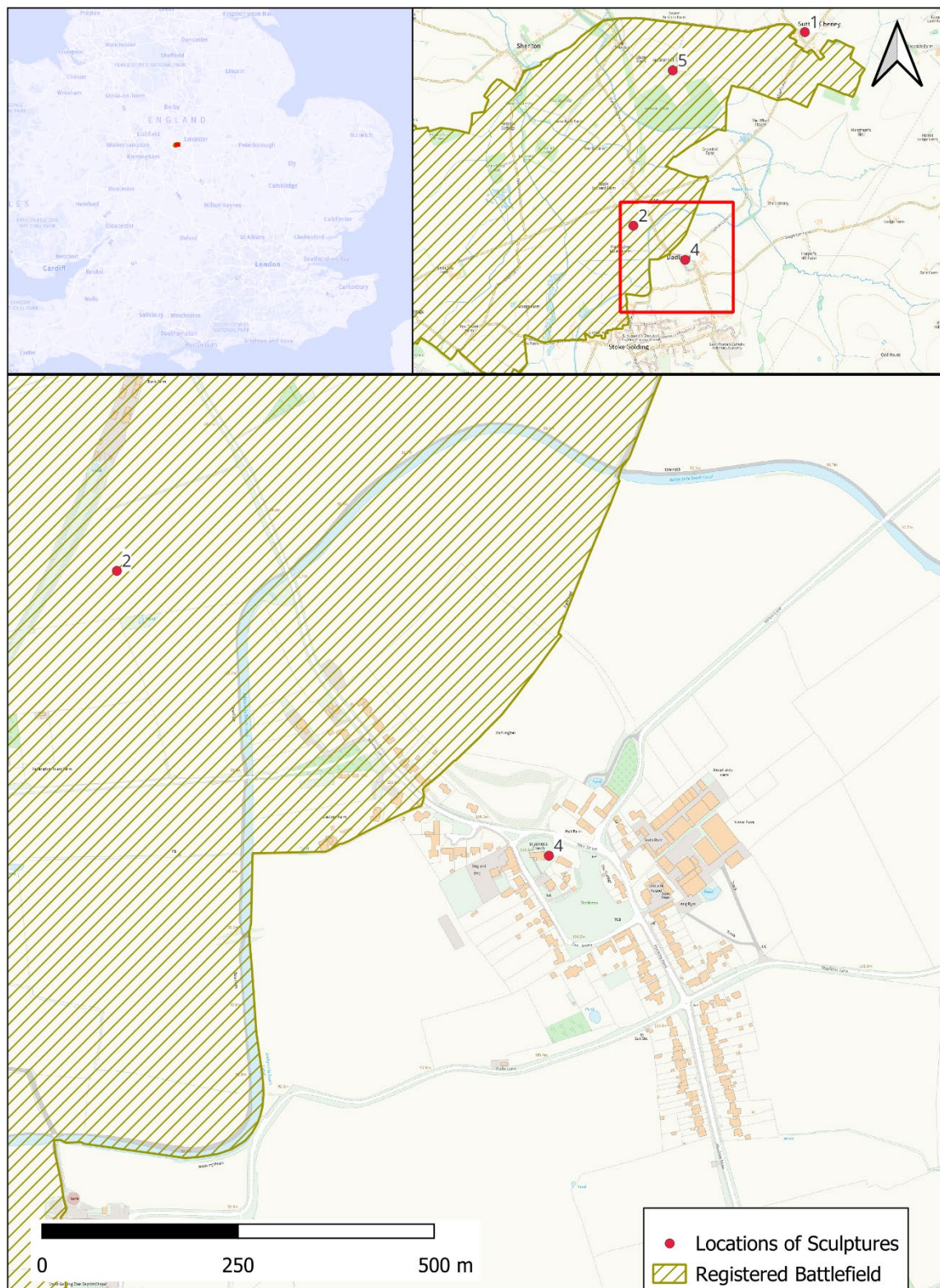
Dadlington is a hamlet within the civil parish of Dadlington and Sutton Cheney which lies in the Hinckley and Bosworth District of Leicestershire around 3km south-east of Market Bosworth and 4.3km north-west of Hinckley. Dadlington lies 2.7km south-west of Sutton Cheney and 1km north-east of Stoke Golding (Figure 1).

The assessment area lies at the south-west edge of the registered battlefield of the Battle of Bosworth (Figure 1). The site is not within the battlefield but the battlefield lies only 160m to the north-west of the site.

The proposed sculpture site consists of the churchyard of St. James the Greater, which lies in the centre of the village to the north of The Green. Main Street lies to the north of the church. The church is situated on a high point in the village at 112m aOD. The churchyard covers around 0.18ha.

The British Geological Website indicates that the underlying geology of the area is likely to be Gunthorpe Member Mudstone overlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits (sand and gravel, (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk>)). The Soilscape website indicates that the soils within the assessment area are likely to be Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales>).

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Created by: M Beamish
Created on: 17/07/2024

Figure 1: Location of sites 1,2,4 and 5 in relation to each other and the Bosworth Battlefield.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was produced for the proposed sculpture site. The following is summarised from the Site 4 assessment. The assessment included the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area within a 250m radius of the proposed site. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was also consulted and also records several findspots for artefacts within a 250m radius of the site. The HER event numbers, monument numbers and PAS numbers are shown in bold in the text (Hunt and Hyam 2022).

The place-name of Dadlington is derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Daedela' and the Old English '-ingtūn', for 'a settlement associated with'. Therefore, the village's name means 'farm/settlement of Daedela' (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>).

A silver gilt white boar, Richard III's own badge, given to his supporters, was discovered at Fen Hole outside Dadlington in 2010 (Foard & Curry 2013, p124).

The church of St. James the Greater is Grade II* listed. The church is mainly 13th century with some Perpendicular work, and some Victorian restoration (**LB1074245: MLE12170**).

Prehistoric and Roman

There are no known prehistoric sites within a 250m radius of the proposed sculpture site. There are also no known Roman sites within a 250m radius of the site. However, the PAS for the area records several findspots for Roman artefacts within a 250m radius. These include coins (**LEIC-459A35: LEIC-628292: LEIC-EEE2A6**), a brooch (**LEIC-257C64**), and a finger ring (**LEIC-BDF792**).

Anglo-Saxon to Medieval

The assessment area lies within the historic medieval core of the village of Dadlington and contains the medieval Church of St. James the Greater (**MLE3263, MLE12170**). James was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, the first apostle to be martyred according to the New Testament. The saint is styled 'The Great' or 'Greater' to differentiate him from James 'the less' and is a reference to size or age rather than importance. The small church dates from the 13th century. There is much evidence to suggest St James' church as the burial place for some of the soldiers from the Battle of Bosworth (Foard & Curry, 2013).

On the east side of Hinckley Road approaching the village from Hinckley was a shallow moat, now obliterated. The medieval coins from the vicinity were identified in the 1990s. This may be the location of a medieval moated site (**MLE3262**).

Medieval finds listed on the PAS for the area include an inkwell (**LEIC-E84347**), a weight (**LEIC-25A8F2**), and two coins (**LEIC-8C4230 & LEIC-08D8D5**).

Post-medieval to modern

The turnpike road from Market Bosworth to Hinckley, via Sutton Cheney and Dadlington lies 70m to the east of the assessment area (**MLE20918**). There are two post-medieval gravel pits in the village. One lies at The Green to the direct south-east of the church the other lies around 60m to the north (**MLE21737 & MLE21738**).

Findspots include a cannonball (**LEIC-A0A8E8**), and three coins (**LEIC-8C9812; LEIC-8C4DB6; LEIC-08F951**).

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were defined as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To characterise the extent, date range, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To excavate and record archaeological deposits uncovered during the work.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to aid in the dating and interpretation of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets and establish the relationship of any remains within the wider landscape.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

Research Objectives

Site specific research objectives align with those outlined within the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (<https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>).

The location of the proposed site within the medieval churchyard of St. James' indicates that there is a potential for archaeology relating to this period, including human remains. The central location within the medieval settlement at the church would indicate a good potential for medieval archaeology within the site. There is therefore potential for remains that could contribute to the following Research Objectives:

Medieval

- 6.4.3: Can spatial and temporal variations in the morphology, functions and status of settlements be defined more precisely?
- 7.2.3: How can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics?
- 7.5.6: What may we deduce from scientific analyses of cemetery populations about changes in diet, mortality and other demographic variables, both within the region and between social groups?

Methodology

All work followed the procedures set out in the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the project (ULAS 2022).

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (updated 2020a) and adhered to their *Code of Conduct* (updated 2021). The accession number X.A152.2022 was used to identify all records and artefacts.

Fieldwork was carried out by ULAS between the 30/10/2023 and 28/05/2024 and was followed by post-excavation and reporting.

| Date | Site Staff | Times | Description |
|----------|------------|-------|-------------|
| 30/10/23 | NAF | 1 day | Sitework |
| 02/11/23 | NAF | ½ day | Sitework |

| | | | |
|----------|-----|-------|--------------------------|
| 02/11/23 | NAF | ½ day | Post-excavation & Report |
| 28/05/24 | NAF | ½ day | Sitework |
| 16/07/24 | NAF | ½ day | Post-excavation & Report |

The watching brief involved the observation of the removal of the old tarmac path and edging bricks for the scheme by an experienced professional archaeologist. Further excavation was carried out by the removal of graveyard soil for new stone seating.

Excavation was carried out by the client’s contractor, using machines provided by the contractor. The machine did not track over any surfaces until the archaeologist had inspected and cleared the area.

Monitoring

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken with the project manager, to ensure that project targets were met and professional standards maintained. No monitoring visits were undertaken, but photos and descriptions of the results were shared with Planning archaeologist during the work.

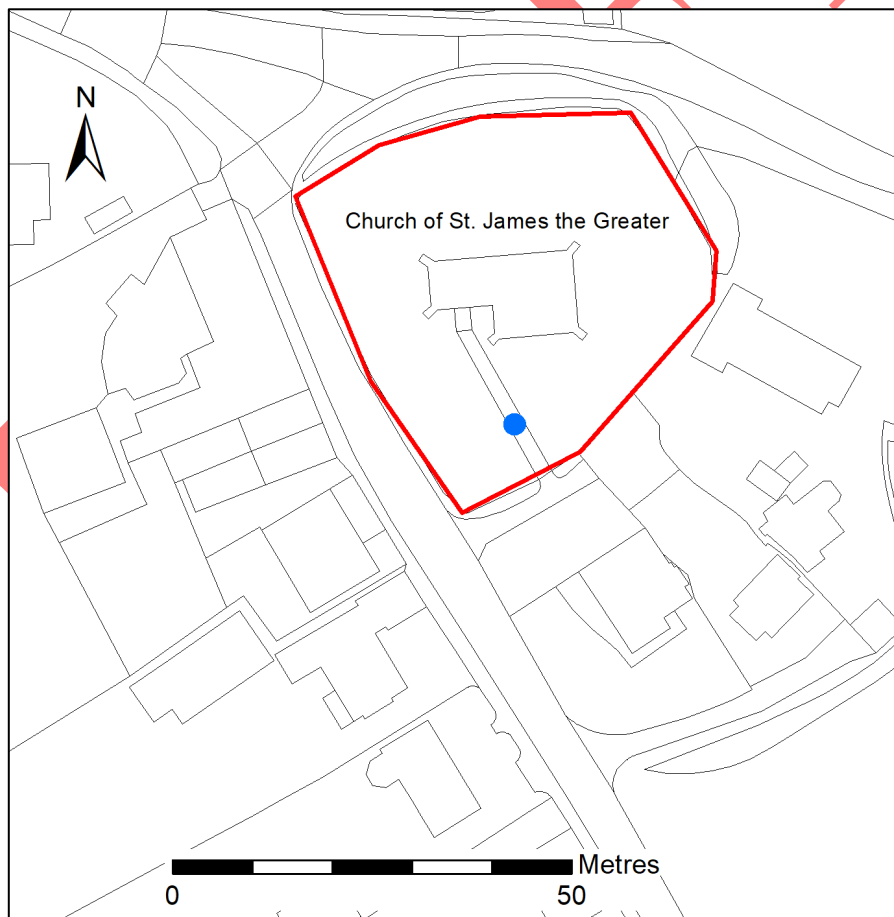


Figure 2: Detailed location plan showing proposals (provided by client).

Results

The initial excavation involved the removal of the blue brick path edging revealing a section through the top of the graveyard soil, mid brown sandy loam, 0.2m thick. This overlaid mixed brown soil with flint and stone fragments, 0.08m thick, onto a dark brown sand clay loam (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Section of brick removal from path looking north-east

The tarmac path was removed by machine to reveal a base layer consisting of a mid-yellow silty sand with CBM, mortar and stone inclusions (Figure 4). The brick edging was re-laid and the tarmac path was reinstated.



Figure 4: Stripped path looking north-west

An area to insert new stone seating as part of the sculpture trail was excavated through the path and surrounding graveyard soil approx. 1m wide, to a depth of 0.4m onto a mixed yellow-brown clay. Overlying this was a sub-base layer, 0.2m thick, overlain by the tarmac path, 0.1m thick (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Excavated section through tarmac path looking north-west.

The topsoil on the north-east side bank was 0.4m deep overlying a subsoil of dark brown mixed clay 0.1m deep. This overlay yellow-brown mixed clay with flint and stone inclusions 0.2m deep (Fig. 6). The south-west excavation showed the same sequence of soils (Fig. 7). The topsoil was 0.1m thick, overlying subsoil, 0.12m thick onto the clay, at least 0.13m thick.



Figure 6: North-east bank excavation looking north-east



Figure 7: South-west bank section looking south-west

The Finds

All the finds have been recovered, processed and recorded in line with national standards (ClfA 2020b) as well as the ClfA Toolkits for *Recording Archaeological Materials* and *Specialist Reporting*. The specialist reports also follow their specific material standards and guidelines. The material was all recorded and reported on between June and July 2024.

The pottery

Kristophe Michaels

Two body sherds weighing 79g of a post-medieval earthenware bowl (EA2), dating to the 19th to 20th century, were recovered from the topsoil. These finds have been recorded following *The Standards* (Barclay et al 2016) and the Leicestershire medieval and post-medieval fabric type series (Davies and Sawday 1999).

Table 1: Summary of Post Medieval pottery

| Context | No. Sherds | Weight (g) | Fabric | Form | Date | Comments |
|---------|------------|------------|--------|------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Topsoil | 2 | 79 | EA2 | Bowl | 1800-1950 | Dark brown internal glaze |

The ceramic building material

Two fragments of ceramic building material weighing 117g were recovered from the topsoil, comprising two fragments of roof tile, each approximately 14mm in thickness. The fragments appear to be post-medieval to early modern in date.

Table 2: Summary of Ceramic Building Material

| Context | Quantity | Weight (g) | Comments |
|---------|----------|------------|----------------|
| Topsoil | 2 | 117 | Tile fragments |

Discussion

The small assemblage of ceramic finds is suggestive of later post medieval activity likely dating between the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The finds have been fully recorded and it is recommended they not be retained as part of the archive.

The Animal and Human Bone

William Johnson-Moss

Four fragments of bone were recovered from topsoil at Dadlington. Three of these were identified as animal bone and included a shaft fragment from a medium mammal long bone, an indeterminate medium mammal bone and a splinter of enamel, most likely from a cattle molar. The fourth fragment was human and identified as part of a left talus.

The other finds

Heidi Addison

Introduction

Three unstratified finds recovered from the topsoil include a 17th to early 18th century clay pipe stem, an early 19th century glass wine bottle neck and two handmade iron nails of uncertain date, and are listed below.

Glass

- 1) Unstratified. Modern. A dark green fragment of a wine bottle neck, with a double string rim. An illustration of a comparable string rim is dated to the beginning of the 19th century (Dumbrell, 1983, 93. fig.c).

Clay pipe

- 2) Unstratified. Late post-medieval to modern. A clay pipe stem, with a stem bore-hole measurement of 8/64ths, providing an estimated date of the 17th to the early 18th century (The national Pipe Archive). (L.26mm).

Iron

- 3) Unstratified. Unknown. Handmade nails. One complete ?timber nail, rectangular-section shaft and a near complete tapering nail, with a square section shaft.

Discussion

The material is all late post-medieval to modern in date and has been fully recorded. An Excel spreadsheet detailing the material will be submitted as part of the site archive.

It is recommended that all of the material is discarded bar the human bone which will be returned to St. James the Greater, Dadlington.

Discussion and Conclusions

The watching brief for the installation of carved stone seating as part of the Bosworth Sculpture Trail did not reveal any archaeological features or in situ burials. Finds recovered were post-medieval in date and could be related to work on the footpath to the church. While the path is currently made of tarmac the brick lining could be of a consistent date with the finds and have been re-laid at a later date.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service with accession number X.A152.2022 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2024-058) and electronic copy (pdf_A).

- 3 watching brief sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 DVD of digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photos

A summary of this report will appear in due course in the Transactions the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project and will be digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank the client, Gemma Tallis for Leicester Promotions and Stephen Broadbent of Broadbent Studio. The fieldwork and post-excavation were undertaken by Nathan Flavell and project managed by Matthew Beamish for ULAS.

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Soilscapes website, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>

The National Pipe Archive www.pipearchive.co.uk [accessed 18/06/2024]

ULAS 2021 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Watching Brief). Site: Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail (Site 4), Church of St. James the Greater, Dadlington, Leicestershire CV13 6JB. ULAS 23-715*



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