



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT KEDLESTON HALL, DERBYSHIRE

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Report Number 2011/15 March 2011



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- 3:** Working shot looking north along new access road, cutting through north field, showing exposed wall foundation.

Non-technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ArchHeritage on behalf of the National Trust, during extensions to an existing car park at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire (NGR 430988 340393). Kedleston Hall was constructed as part of an extensive building and landscaping project commenced in 1758, during which the medieval village was relocated to a position outside the estate.

During the Second World War the area of both the existing car park and its proposed extension was the site of a Royal Signals camp, which was demolished during or shortly after 1945.

Excavation of the new access road and feeder lanes revealed very few archaeologically significant remains or deposits. Two areas of compacted cinder-type material interpreted as the remains of the hardstanding surface for the 1939-1945 camp; a length of buried electricity cable; and the right-angled corner of a wall foundation interpreted as being associated with the barracks of the 1939-1945 camp were identified.

Key Project Information

Project Name	Kedleston Hall
ArcHeritage Project No.	5486
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	The National Trust
Planning Application No.	AVA/2011/0007
NGR	430988 340393
Museum Accession No.	
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1 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at Kedleston Hall, Derby. The watching brief was required by Amber Valley Borough Council with regard to planning permission (Application AVA/2011/0007) for the extension of the existing car park at the site.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ArcHeritage on behalf of The National Trust.

2 METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodologies set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by The National Trust, and with national guidelines for archaeological watching briefs produced by the IfA.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

Kedleston Hall (centred on NGR 430988 340393) lies approximately 5.5km to the west-northwest of Derby.

The development site lies immediately to the northwest of the Hall and consists of the existing car park and overspill parking area.

The local geology comprises a solid geology of Hoptonwood and Matlock Limestone.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest reference to Kedleston is made in the Domesday Survey, recording that the manor belonged to Henry de Ferrers, but held by Wulfbert. The survey suggests that the settlement comprised a manor house, a church, a mill and dwellings.

There is a dearth of documentary sources relating to the medieval village and its exact location is, therefore, difficult to define, but is likely to have been in the vicinity of the church and the present Hall.

Kedleston has been the seat of the Curzon family since the 12th century. In 1758, Nathaniel Curzon, the First Lord Scarsdale initiated an extensive building and landscaping project creating the Palladian Mansion and surrounding landscape. During these works Kedleston village was moved to its present location beyond the edge of the estate.

The current car park occupies the site of a former Royal Signals camp, active during the Second World War. Aerial photographs show the layout of 45 temporary wooden barracks and access roads. These were demolished after World War II, though foundations and services may still exist below ground.

5 RESULTS

The works consisted of the excavation along the route of a new access road running along the perimeter of the car park; the renewal of existing feeder lanes between parking bays; and the

extension of these lanes to provide further overspill parking and to link to the extended access road. Along the access road, the ground was excavated to a width between 3.5 and 4m, and a depth of between 0.2 and 0.3m below the line of the current turf, and to a depth of 0.15 to 0.2m along the line of the feeder lanes, both existing and newly excavated, with a width of 3m.

Examination of the excavated sections of the feeder lanes indicated that the turf layer and underlying topsoil had an average thickness of between 0.1 and 0.15m. Machine-excavation generally exposed, therefore, only the surface of the underlying reddish-brown silty-clay. In many areas both the topsoil and the subsoil had been extensively disturbed by mature tree roots.



Plate 1 General view looking northwest along feeder lane showing mature tree root disturbance.

Excavation of the feeder lanes also indicated that these had also been excavated previously, to a depth of 0.1 to 0.15m, to allow the laying of a terram-type membrane which had then been covered by a layer of grey-coloured hardcore to provide hardstanding for the car park. No deposits of archaeological significance were exposed during the excavation of the feeder lanes with the exception of a length of cable within a metal sheath running approximately NW-SE. No cut associated with this buried service was visible, though it had been covered by a single layer of flat, sub-angular limestone fragments. The service was interpreted as being associated with the Royal Signals camp, being laid at the horizontal edge between the topsoil and subsoil to allow ease-of-access for modification or repair.

Excavation of the existing access road indicated that the topsoil layer had previously been completely removed to allow the laying of a tarmac surface upon a layer of hardcore. Close to the car park entrance, this hardcore also overlay a layer of compacted cinder-type material which was interpreted as being associated with the Royal Signals camp.



Plate 2 General view looking west along access from car park entrance showing existing hard standing upon hardcore and cinder-type layers.

No features of archaeological significance were identified in the area of the existing car park. Extension into the field to the northwest of the car park exposed an area of compacted cinder-type hardcore surface with its west edge orientated approximately north-south. Within this area was the right-angled edge of a structure. This consisted of the truncated remains of a single course of red brick, two bricks wide, upon a thin skim of cement-based mortar, 0.45m in width, covering a layer of limestone hardcore, 0.65m wide. Within the angle of the structure was a discrete deposit of flat, sub-angular limestone fragments, approximately 0.5m wide, probably laid to aid drainage. The remainder of the interior of the structure consisted of the undisturbed clayey subsoil. The north-south arm was exposed for a length of 3.4m before turning to the east. The east-west arm was visible for a length of 4.9m. The structure appeared to continue eastwards, but machine-excavation beyond this point was along a line moving gradually north of the projected line of this structure and was also of an insufficient depth to expose further remains.



Plate 3 Working shot looking north along new access road, cutting through north field, showing exposed wall foundation.

At a point approximately 15m northeast of this structure, a number of animal bones were exposed. These were intact, identified as sheep (*Ovis aries*) and representing a single individual animal and was interpreted as a burial on site rather than kitchen waste. The skull of a rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) was also exposed close by, but this was identified as being of fairly recent date. These faunal remains were discarded on site following examination.

Also recovered during the excavation of the access road within this field, was a small glass, a small number of white-glazed pottery of modern date and a single spent-ammunition casing. The glass and the pottery were retained and the spent case remained on site awaiting safe disposal.

Following consultation with Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist, the archaeological watching brief was discontinued prior to the completion of groundworks due to the limited extent of machine excavation and the relative paucity of archaeologically significant results.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appendix 1 – Index to Archive

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	2
Levels register	0
Photographic register	1
Levels register	0
Drawing register	0
Original drawings	0
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	39
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – Written Scheme of Investigation



Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for the extension of the existing Car Park at Kedleston Hall, Derby, Derbyshire.

1.0 Summary

The following Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation has been prepared by the National Trust for Archaeological Monitoring, Recording and Reporting in the form of a Watching Brief during ground-works associated with the extension of the existing car park at Kedleston Hall, Derby, Derbyshire.

The archaeological monitoring, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1999). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice will also be followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).

2.0 Planning background

Planning permission (Planning Application No:AVA/2011/0007) for the extension of the existing car park at Kedleston Hall Abbey has been granted by Amber Valley Borough Council subject to a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological monitoring, post-excavation analysis, reporting and publication of the findings.

3.0 Site location and description

Kedleston Hall lies approximately 5.5 kilometres to the west-northwest of Derby's city centre, and approximately 14km to the southeast of Ashbourne. The proposed development site, centred on National Grid Reference 430988 340393, lies immediately to the northwest of Kedleston Hall. The site includes the existing car park and current overspill parking area. The current car parking area comprises a mix of stone and grass parking bays

The local geology comprises a solid geology of Hoptonwood and Matlock Limestone (BGS 1972).

4.0 Historical and Archaeological Significance

Setting Background

The earliest reference to Kedleston is made in the Domesday Survey, 1086, where Kedleston is referred to as 'Chetelstune', literally translated to mean 'Chetel's Farm'. The Domesday Survey records the manor as belonging to Henry de Ferrers, but being held by Wulfbert. The Survey records

five villagers and five smallholders and a mill at 'Chetelstune', suggesting that the medieval settlement comprised a manor house, church, a mill and dwellings.

The Church of All Saints, which lies immediately to the west of the present Hall, is the only above ground surviving remnant of the medieval village of Kedleston. The dearth of documentary sources relating to the medieval village of Kedleston makes it difficult to define the exact location of the village, although it is likely to have been within the vicinity of the All Saints Church and the present Kedleston Hall. The Church appears to have been largely rebuilt during the late 13th century, although a Norman doorway with carved beakheads, colonnades and tympanum survive within the present fabric of the structure.

Kedleston has been the seat of the Curzon family since the 12th century, following their arrival from Normandy. The earliest recorded associations with the Curzon family and Kedleston are made in 1198/99 when a deed records that the 'vill' of Kedleston was granted to Thomas de Curzon by his uncle Richard de Curzon. Deeds relating to Kedleston indicate that the manor had been partially emparked by the end of the 16th century, followed by a period of expansion resulting in the acquisition of additional lands including the eventual purchase of the Manor of Little Ireton to the north.

Upon his inheritance of the Estate in 1758, Nathaniel Curzon embarked upon an ambitious building and landscaping project. The present Kedleston Hall, a Palladian Mansion, was constructed by Nathaniel Curzon, the First Lord Scarsdale, by the architect Robert Adam between 1758 and 1765. The Hall replaced a red brick Queen Anne house built circa 1710, which had in turn replaced an Elizabethan Hall. It was during this building phase that Kedleston village was moved to its present location, two kilometres away just beyond the edge of the Estate. The formal gardens that had originally surrounded the ground were landscaped by Robert Adam to form a more 'naturalistic' landscape.

Archaeology Associated with the Development Area.

The present car park is centred over the site of a former Royal Signals Camp. The Royal Signals were stationed at Kedleston Hall during World War II. Aerial photos from 1939 show the layout of the barracks and access roads. The camp, which comprised 45 temporary wooden barracks, was comprehensively demolished following the Second World War, although remains of the sewerage plant are still present elsewhere within the park. It is possible that below ground remains, in the form of foundations and services, may survive that relate to this period of use.

Although, there is a dearth of information relating to the former Kedleston Village site, it is believed to have been focused in the area surrounding the current Hall and Church. It is therefore possible that below ground remains of the former village may be present within the proposed development area.

5.0 Fieldwork Methodology/Watching Brief

An experienced field archaeologist will be present during any ground-works, notably the new access road, that are likely to disturb/destroy archaeological remains at the discretion of the National Trust Archaeologist. They will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document, and will be familiar with national guidelines regarding archaeological watching briefs (IfA 1999). All archaeological works will be overseen and co-ordinated by the National Trust's Midlands Archaeological Consultant.

Where a mechanical excavator is to be used for ground excavation work, it should be fitted with a toothless bucket. A toothed bucket and/or concrete breaker may only be used where absolutely necessary to remove hard surfaces and other obstructions, and this must be agreed in advance with the on-site archaeologist.

During the fieldwork the archaeologist will inspect all exposed plan and section surfaces, with a view to undertake the excavation of any archaeological features or deposits within the area of ground-works for artefact recovery and to clarify of the shape and orientation of the features. Should archaeological remains be exposed, the archaeologist will direct the excavator operator as appropriate to cease excavation or continue controlled machining to uncover the remains as necessary. The archaeologist should be afforded adequate time to confirm the identification of archaeological remains and to make an assessment of the potential significance of the remains and the impact of continued development work.

Accurate scale drawings (plan and section) will be produced at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20 or 1:50) of any archaeological features/deposits and/or a 'natural' profile to illustrate the site soil stratigraphy. A base plan will also be produced, at an appropriate scale, to map any archaeological features/deposits or finds concentrations. OD heights will be included on all section drawings.

Standard watching brief recording sheets will be used to record all context information (e.g. deposits, archaeological features, stratigraphic relationships). All archaeological deposits will also be recorded photographically, in colour and monochrome 35mm format, with each shot including an identification number board, appropriate scales and a directional arrow. General site shots will also be taken to show the location of the groundworks.

If human burials are exposed during the groundworks where possible they will be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. If removal is deemed necessary, The National Trust will obtain a Ministry of Justice exhumation licence authorising the removal of the remains. The Police and Coroner will be informed if it is suspected that the remains have been buried for less than 50 years.

If any artefactual material is recovered during the archaeological monitoring, analysis of the material will be completed by the relevant specialists. If the objects are deemed to be unstable they will be assessed by the National Trust Conservator and appropriate works will be undertaken.

6.0 Post-fieldwork methodology

Once the fieldwork element is completed, a fully illustrated report will be compiled, which will include a full account of the works and the findings. The final report will include the following:

- a brief non-technical summary of the project
- a description of the site location, topography and geology
- a brief account of the archaeological and historical background of the site; description and analysis of the fieldwork
- discussion and conclusions of the findings, including consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis
- any specialist reports,
- a summary table of the archaeological contexts encountered including descriptions and interpretations
- geo-referenced location plans at an appropriate scale
- plan and section drawings of any significant features and deposits at an appropriate scale
- colour photographs including general views and appropriate records of significant features and deposits
- acknowledgements and bibliography of sources used

The post-excavation report will be completed and submitted to the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeological Officer within four to eight weeks of the completion of the groundworks. Where appropriate arrangements will be made for the publication of any significant finds in a local archaeological journal.

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER), The National Monument Record, The National Trust HBSMR, Kedleston Hall Archives and the Central Filing System for the National Trust.

7.0 Curatorial monitoring

Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of the project will be given to The Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist. The Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist will be kept informed of developments and progress during the works by the National Trust's Archaeological Consultant.

8.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be assembled in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker 1990). The site archive will be maintained by the National Trust. Digital copies of the archive will be appended to the National Trust's Sites and Monument Record.

Following the completion of the work an OASIS online record recording the project will be completed. All parts of the OASIS online record will be completed for submission to the Derbyshire HER.

9.0 Variations to the proposed scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

10.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice.

A Site Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological monitoring.

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11.0 Bibliography

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Figures