

Archaeological Observation at Land adjacent to 'Bryngarth', Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

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Report 0666
November 2006

Warwickshire Museum Field Services
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Summary

Archaeological observation at land adjacent to 'Bryngarth', Gullet Lane, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, recorded no archaeological finds or features.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Blaby District Council for the construction of one dwelling at land adjacent to 'Bryngarth', Gullet Lane, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire (Planning Ref. 06/0335/1/PX). The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance as highlighted by the County Historic Environment Record and it was possible that archaeological deposits could be disturbed by the development. It was therefore a condition of planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of observation of ground reduction, foundation trenches and service trenches in accordance with a Brief prepared by the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority, was commissioned from the Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group and carried out in August and November 2006. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Leicestershire Museums under the accession number X.A73.2006; the Warwickshire Museum site code was KG06.

2. Location

2.1 The site is located at national grid reference SK 511040 in the parish of Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire. The site was previously the garden of 'Bryngarth' (Fig. 1).

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Anglian Till (British Geological Survey 2006).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The earliest known activity in the vicinity is Romano-British in date. To the north of the site metal detecting has recovered a bow brooch, possible earring and several sherds of pottery (Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record MLE10253, Fig. 1). At Barons Park, to the north-east, an archaeological evaluation in 2002 noted a series of ditches and pits containing Roman pottery (SMR MLE10025). Truncation of these features by more recent pits is attributed to quarrying activity (SMR MLE10026).

3.2 It is possible that Brickmans Hill to the south of Gullet Lane may have been the site of a 15th-century brickyard where the bricks to build Kirby Muxloe Castle were manufactured (SMR MLE8912, Fig. 1).

3.3 Undated archaeological features have been recorded in the vicinity of the site. The closest of these is a ditch which runs along the south of Gullet Lane (SMR MLE10255). This does not feature on any Ordnance Survey maps or the Glenfield Tithe Map (Fig. 2). Another ditch was found 350m north of the site (SMR MLE15783) and in 2005 an archaeological evaluation recorded undated postholes, a gully and a truncated pit, 400m to the north-east (SMR MLE16053) (Fig. 1).



Fig. 2: Tracing after Glenfield Tithe Map, 1853 (LRO Ti/118/1)

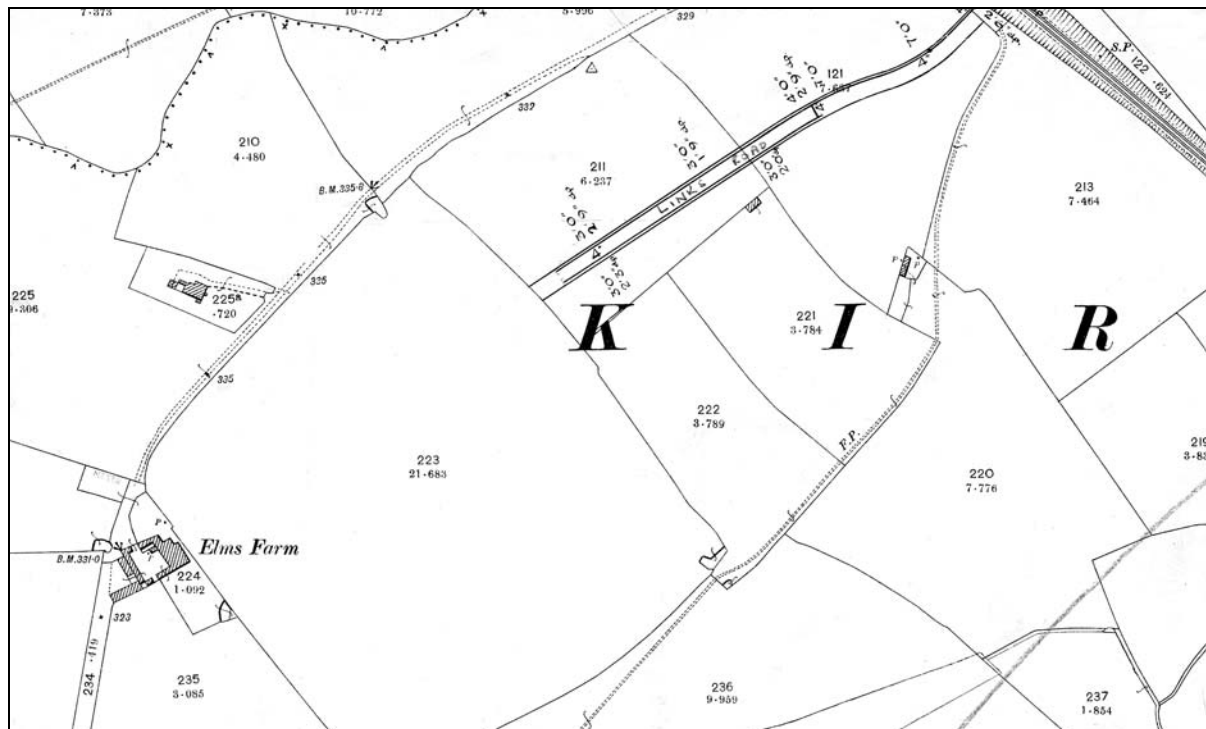


Fig. 3: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1903



Fig. 4: Foundation trenches, facing north-east



Fig. 5: Service trench, facing north-west

3.4 The site was formerly within the parish of Glenfield, although it now a civil parish in its own right. The Glenfield tithe map dating to 1853 (Leicester Records Office Ti/118/1) shows Gullet Lane as a track leading between Elms Farm and the railway. The site itself was within field 61 (Fig. 2). This remains unchanged on the 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1903 shows the addition of Links Road to the south (Fig. 3). No development had taken place along it or along Gullet Lane by this time.

4. Observation

4.1 Topsoil stripping of the footprint for the new bungalow was observed (Fig. 1). The yellowish brown pebbly clay geological natural was found at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.28m. Covering the natural was a dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (1).

4.2 The excavation of c. 0.6m wide and between 1m and 2.5m deep foundation trenches was also observed (Fig. 1). A gradual colour variation in the geological natural (3) was noted: at a depth of c. 0.5m the pebbly clay was grey in colour (Fig. 4). In view of the absence of any archaeological evidence, monitoring of trenches was curtailed in agreement with the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

4.3 A 3m by 0.7m service trench crossing the undated ditch (SMR MLE10255) was observed (Fig. 1). It had been excavated with no archaeologist present and the spoil removed from site. At the time of observation the c. 0.6m deep trench was partially backfilled with aggregates and contained several duct pipes, hindering any archaeological recording of the feature (Fig. 3). On the Gullet Lane side of the ditch 0.3m of topsoil (3) was noted.

Conclusions

5.1 During topsoil stripping and the excavation of trenches no archaeological finds or features were recorded, suggesting that no significant archaeological remains were affected by the development. Nothing further was learnt about the undated ditch as it could not be effectively observed.

Acknowledgements

The Warwickshire Museum would like to thank Matthew Haynes for commissioning the work and the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist for preparing the brief. The proposal was prepared by Ian Greig and work on site was carried out by Ian Greig and Caroline Rann. This report was written by Caroline Rann with illustrations by Andy Isham. It was checked by Ian Greig and Nicholas Palmer.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey 2006 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/leicester/home.html>

LRO Ti/118/1 *Plan of Tithable lands in Glenfield 1853*, Leicestershire Records Office

Ordnance Survey 1835 *First Edition 1 inch to a mile map*, Leicester Sheet 43

Ordnance Survey 1886 *First Edition 1:2500*, Leicestershire Sheet 30.15

Ordnance Survey 1903 *Second Edition 1:2500*, Leicestershire Sheet 30.15

Appendix A: Archive Index

<i>Site Name/Parish</i>	Adj. 'Bryngarth', Gullet Lane, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire	
<i>Acc No/Site Code</i>	X.A73.2006/KG06	
<i>Organisation</i>	Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group	
<i>Class number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No</i>
1	Index to Archive	1
2	Introduction	1
A.1	Final Report	1
B.1	Site Data - Text: Field notes	2
B.2	Site Data - Primary Context Records	3
B.3	Site Data - Primary Drawings	1 (A1)
B.4	Site Data - Synthesised Drawings	3 (on CD below)
C.1	Finds Data - Finds List	none
C.2	Finds	none
D.1	Catalogue of Photographs	1
D.2.a	Digital Photographs Index Print	1
D.2b	Digital photographs	13 (on CD below)
D.2c	Black and White Negatives (2 part films)	1 sheets
D.2d	Black and White prints (8)	1 sheets
D.2.e	Colour Slides 1-10	1 sheet
E.1	Environmental/Ecofact Data	None
F.1a	Documentary - Old maps	2
F.1b	Documentary - Developer's plans	1
G.1a	Correspondence -Planning Brief	8 pages
G.1b	Correspondence - Museum proposal	3 pages
H.1	Miscellaneous - CD with <i>Report file</i> (0666KG06.doc), <i>Archive catalogue</i> (KG06Arcind.doc), <i>Drawings</i> (KG06 fig 1.pdf) and <i>Digital Photographs</i> (KG06-01 -13.jpg)	1 CD