



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip,  
Map and Sample Exercise  
at Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road,  
Ab Kettleby, Leicestershire  
(SK 7260 2308)**

**by Sophie Clarke**



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**An Archaeological Strip,  
Map and Sample Exercise at  
Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road, Ab Kettleby,  
Leicestershire.**

**(NGR SK 7260 2308)**

**Sophie Clarke**

Planning Application: 10/00945/FUL

**For:** Haywood Exclusive Homes Ltd

Checked by:

**Signed:**



**Date:** 20.05.2011

**Name:** Richard Buckley

**University of Leicester**

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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**Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Haywood Exclusive Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise on land adjacent to Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road, Ab Kettleby, Leicestershire, in advance of the construction of seven new dwellings on the site of the former farm yard. Two evaluation trenches and area stripped under full archaeological supervision revealed no evidence of archaeological activity within the development area.*

*The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the accession number X.A55.2011.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Haywood Exclusive Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation, by strip, map and sample, in advance of the proposed residential redevelopment of a former farmyard adjacent to Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road, Ab Kettleby, Leicestershire SK 7260 2308.

The development comprises the construction of seven new dwellings in addition to the rebuilding of an existing garage/studio, with the excavation of associated service trenches, access roads and landscaping (Planning Application Number 10/00945/FUL).

**2. Background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Ab Kettleby (HER Ref: MLE9111), within the curtilage of a Grade II listed farmhouse of the mid-to late 17th century. In consequence, there was thought to be good potential for the presence of archaeological remains dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods, surviving within the development area.

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment, the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCC HNET), advised the Planning Officer at Melton Borough Council that an archaeologically supervised soil strip of the development area, followed by investigation and appropriate level of recording, should be undertaken, in advance of the groundworks associated with the proposed development.

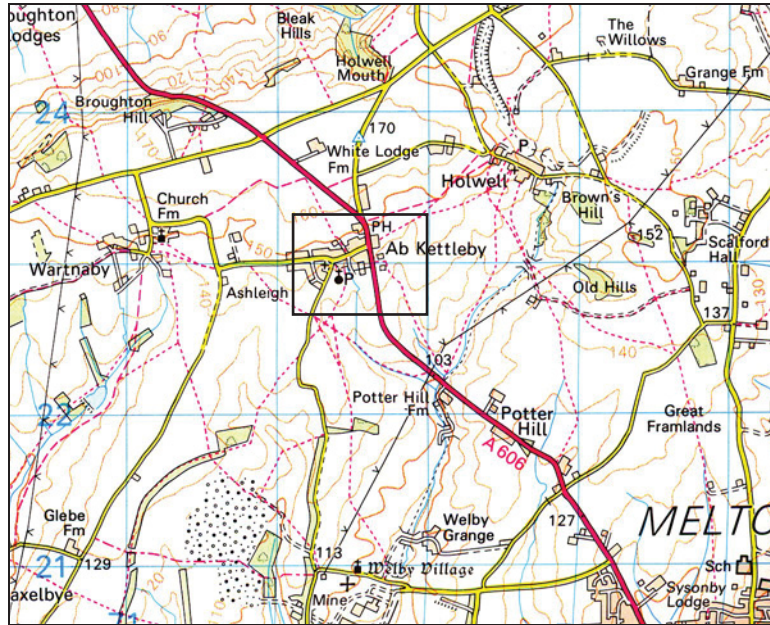


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:50000

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The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying solid geology is likely to consist of Jurassic siltstone and mudstone of the Dyrham Foundation (DYS). The site lies at an approximate height of 140m.



Figure 2. Location of development area, taken from OS map SK72SE (not to scale)  
Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2011



### 3. Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of the archaeological stripping and investigation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
- To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In consultation with the Planning Archaeologist, the programme of work was revised to include the investigation of four initial trenches, to target the footprints of the new buildings, with supervised area stripping to follow depending on the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the trenches.

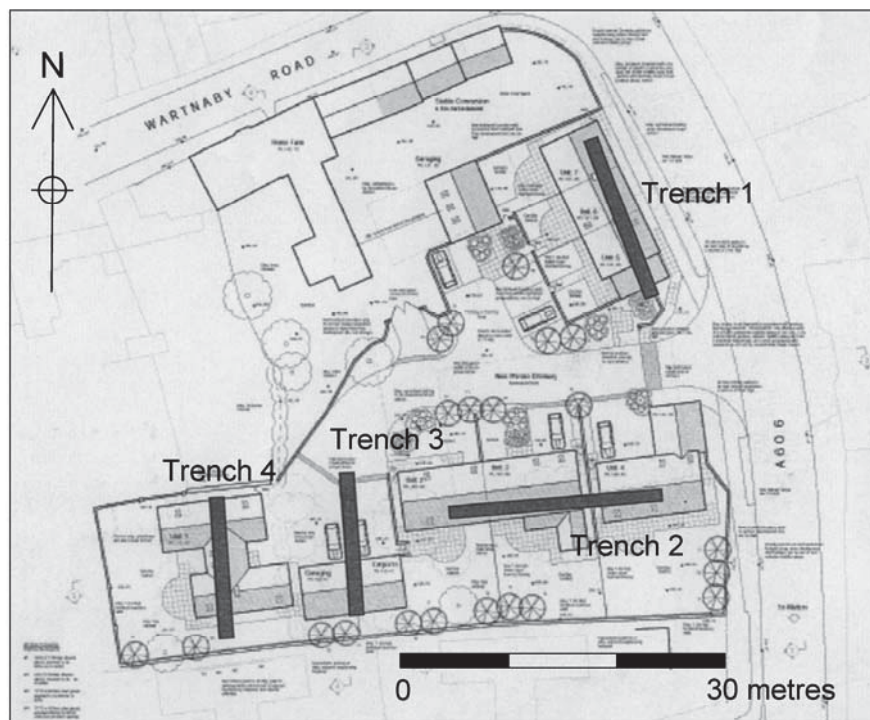


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan (supplied by client, survey undertaken by S&S Architecture Ltd)

Trench 1: to establish the impact of Units 5-7, aligned NW-SE, parallel with the Nottingham Road (approx. 15m x 1.8m or 27 sqm).

Trench 2: as above, targeting Units 2-4, aligned E-W, perpendicular to the Nottingham Road (approx. 20m x 1.8m or 36sqm).

Trench 3: Targeting garages and access between Units 1 and 2, aligned N-S. Approximately 10m x 1.8m or 18 sqm.

Trench 4: Targeting Unit 1, aligned NW-SE, 15m x 1.8m or 27 sqm.

Specific methodology followed procedure set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording* ('Strip, Map and Sample') ULAS 2011.

The fieldwork was undertaken on the 12th April and 13th May 2011, by Sophie Clarke and Gerwyn Richards of ULAS. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m ditching bucket.

#### 4. Results

On the 12th April 2011, Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated in accordance with the specifications outlined in the above methodology. Prior to the preliminary site visit, the site had been cleared of assorted 20th century farm buildings and concrete surfacing had been removed. This indicated that the area towards the Wartnaby Road frontage had been previously subject to topsoil stripping, prior to the laying down of the concrete yard surface. Trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m below the ground surface, with removed overburden consisting of contaminated natural mudstone. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the excavation of these trenches.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west

During the course of the second site visit, undertaken on the 13th of May, it was decided by the on-site archaeologist to carry out a controlled strip over the full footprint of Unit 1, rather than excavate a smaller trench (Trench 4), due to the small size of the plot. Over burden consisted of clean garden soil, consisting of c. 0.3m of



topsoil overlying c.0.4m of subsoil, to a maximum depth of 0.75m below ground surface. No archaeological deposits were recorded during the stripping of Unit 1.

In view of the size of the stripped area, and the proximity of Trench 2, which was also devoid of archaeological remains, there was considered to be little archaeological potential within the area designated for garages adjacent to Unit 1. The excavation of the final 10 metre slot (Trench 3) was therefore not undertaken.



Plate 3. Stripped footprint of Unit 1. Looking north.

## **5. Conclusion**

The development site occupies an area with good archaeological potential, on the eastern edge of the historic settlement core of Ab Kettleby village and within a rich archaeological landscape. However, no evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts were found during the course of this evaluation. Extensive recent disturbance was encountered within the proposed development area, but the underlying substrata appeared largely undisturbed, suggesting the area has always been undeveloped.

## **6. Archive & Publication**

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet showing trench location plan
- 1 A3 paper trench location plan
- CD containing 5 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 9 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- 2 A4 trench recording sheet



1 A4 watching brief sheet

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-074)

The archive will be held at Leicester County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A55.2011.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

## **7. References**

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

ULAS 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording ('Strip, Map and Sample') at Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road, Ab Kettleby, Leicestershire SK 7260 2308.*

Sophie Clarke  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RHs

[sjc46@le.ac.uk](mailto:sjc46@le.ac.uk)

T: 0116 252 2848

F: 0116 252 2614

18.05.2011

### Appendix 1: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	<b>Home Farm, 1 Wartnaby Road, Ab Kettleby</b>
Project Type	Watching Brief/Strip Map Record
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Sophie Clarke
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	farmyard
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	<b>SK 7260 2308</b>
Start/end dates of field work	12/04/2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	c.3600 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](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

