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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Observation,
Investigation and Recording for a
Manege at the Manor House, Great
Addington, Northamptonshire
(NGR SP 95678 74974)**

Jennifer Browning



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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
During Groundworks for a Manege at
The Manor House,
Great Addington,
Northamptonshire
SP 95678 74974**

Jennifer Browning

For

Mr. M. McKinley

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording for a Manege at the Manor House, Cranford Road, Great Addington, Northamptonshire (SP 95678 74974)

Jennifer Browning

Summary

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording was carried out in the grounds of the Manor House, Great Addington, Northamptonshire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on the 18th and 19th January 2012. The work took place during topsoil stripping for a new manege in an area that contained ridge and furrow. No archaeological deposits were encountered during this work. The archive will be held by ULAS until such time as appropriate facilities are available at Northamptonshire County Council.

Introduction

Consent has been granted for a manege for equestrian use on land at the Manor House, Cranford Rd, Great Addington, Northamptonshire (SP 95678 74974) (Planning Application Ref: EN/11/01724/FUL). University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mr. M. McKinley to carry out archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks.

This archaeological work was in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010) and was requested by East Northamptonshire District Council. The watching brief aimed to address the requirements of the Planning Archaeologist at Northamptonshire County Council, who has requested archaeological mitigation in the form of Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication due to the archaeological potential of the site (Northamptonshire County Council Brief 2011).

Location and Geology

The site is located in the district of East Northamptonshire, in a field within the village of Great Addington. The British Geological Survey records that the bedrock geology on the site consists of limestone of the Cornbrash Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded (Geology of Britain viewer (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/> Accessed 19th January 2012)).

Topographically, the site slopes down slightly towards the south-east. It lies at a height of approx 60m O.D. and is located within an area of pasture.

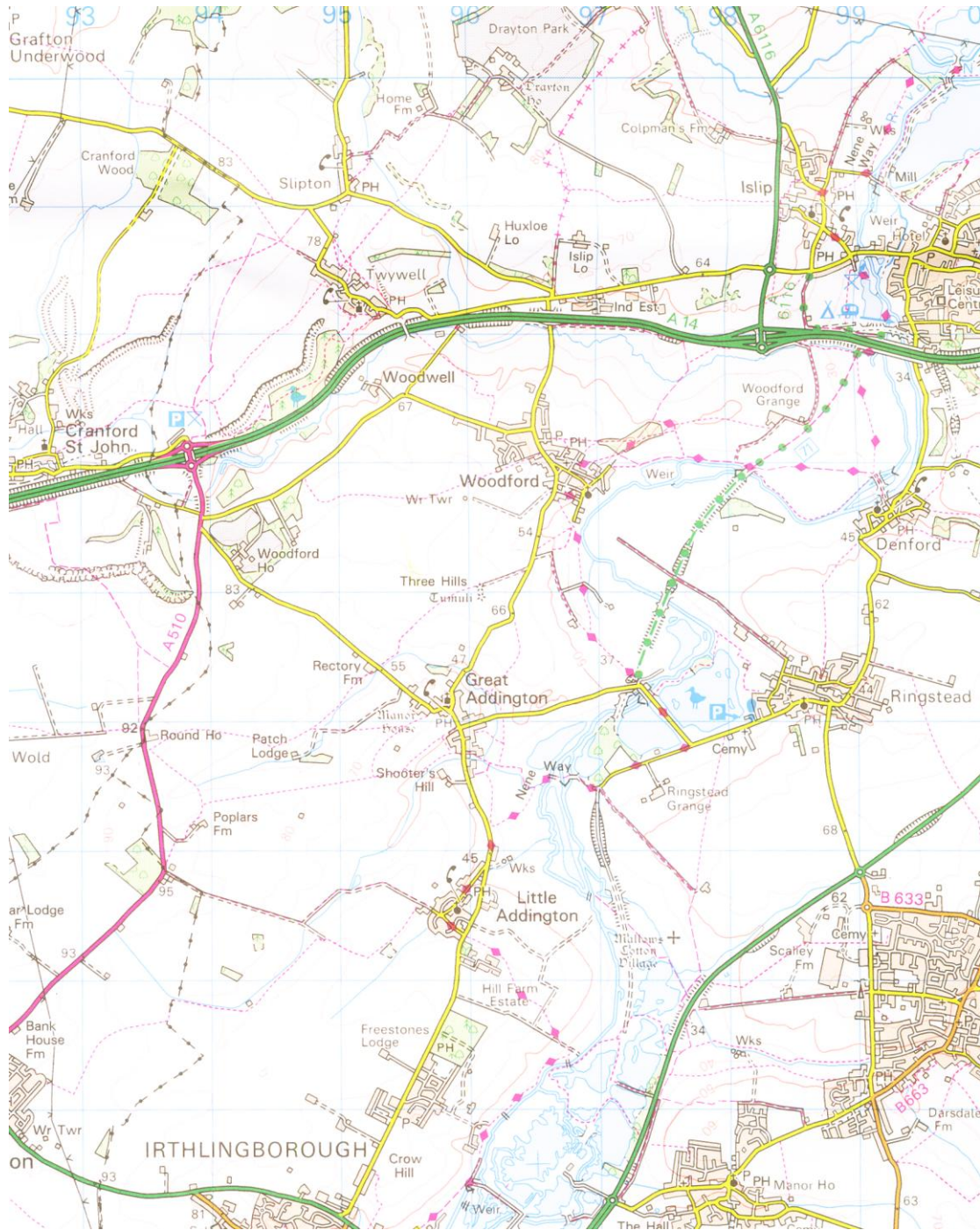


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Manor House at Great Addington is a Grade II listed building. The listing description describes it as having a 17th century datestone, but being predominantly 18th century and enlarged in the 19th century. It was built of squared coursed limestone with a collyweston slate roof and was originally E-shaped but is now more complex. The site is located to the south-west of the Manor House and contains

partially eroded ridge and furrow, aligned south-east to north-west. Ridge and furrow is particularly characteristic of the Midlands counties, such as Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and is evidence for strip farming. Ridges were created through the action of the medieval plough with a coulter and mouldboard, which moved the soil forwards and sideways (Astill 1988, 70). At the end of the strip, the turning of the plough often created a heap of soil, known as a head (Hall 1982, 6). The ridges and furrows became fossilised in the landscape when land use changed from agricultural to pastoral. In most cases, it pre-dates the Enclosure of the field but could also preserve beneath it the remains of earlier archaeology.

In the field immediately to the south/south-east of the site, the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record indicates a number of cropmarks including a possible enclosure and a pit alignment, the latter oriented north-west to south-east and running in the direction of the development area. This is likely to indicate Iron Age settlement (HER Refs 347279-81). Other heritage assets recorded on the HER in the vicinity include a Neolithic stone axe (HER 347415), a probable Roman villa (HER 347370), Roman burials (HER 347270) and Anglo – Saxon burials (HER 347223 and 347330).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeological deposits on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the observation, investigation and recording were to:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground-works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground-works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008). *A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist and consisted of the removal of topsoil, using a small tracked excavator with a 1.6m ditching bucket. The work took place on the 18th and 19th January 2012.

Results

The site comprised an area measuring 50m by 30m, orientated north-east to south-west and containing ridge and furrow. The distance between the tops of the ridges was

approximately 7-8m. Across most of the area, the excavations were generally very shallow, extending 0.15-0.20m into the topsoil. On the south-east side of the development area the ground was to be built up and therefore only a skim of topsoil was taken off in order to remove the vegetation in preparation for levelling up. The topsoil consisted of a fairly light sandy-loam, dark brown in colour and contained remarkably little debris, such as pottery sherds, glass fragments or even stones. The ground was stripped to a greater depth in the north-west corner of the area (to approximately 10m from the north-west edge). At its deepest point 0.35-0.40m of soil was removed exposing the natural subsoil, which consisted of coarse fragments of limestone in a sandy clay matrix. There was a thin subsoil or interface between the topsoil and the natural subsoil, approximately 0.12m thick and consisting of greyish brown sandy-clay with frequent stones and pebbles.

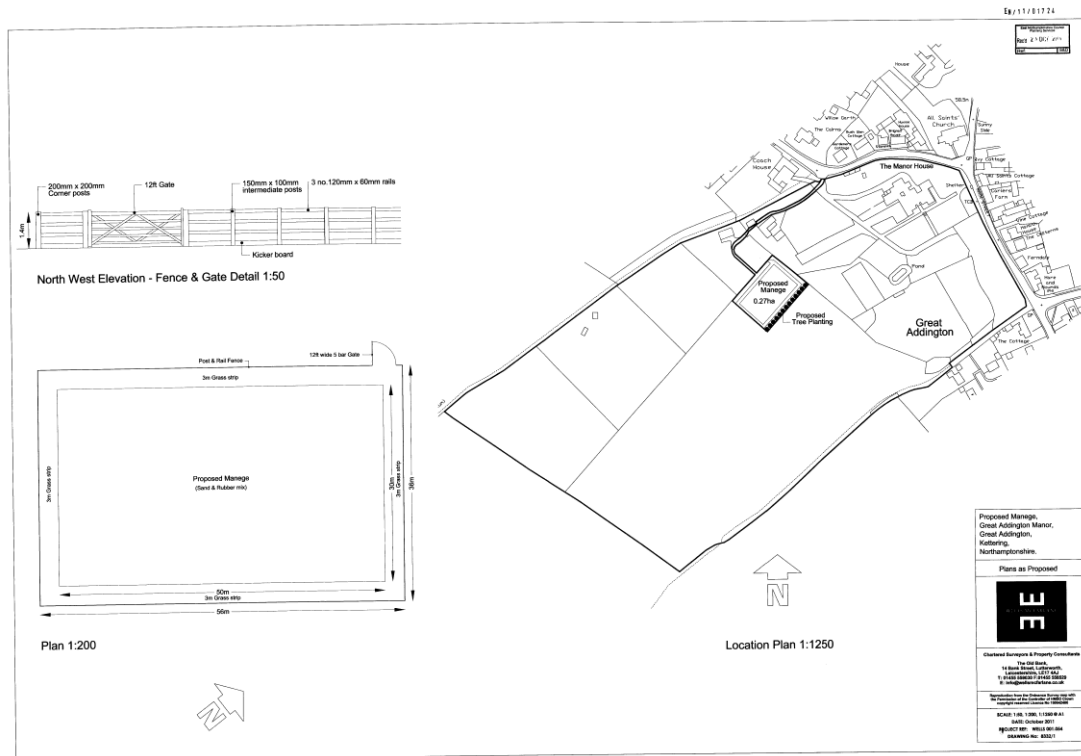


Figure 2: Site plan (supplied by client)

Soil of a slightly different colour and texture was observed against the north-west edge of the excavated area and was investigated as a possible feature. However, excavation showed that it was shallow, 0.15m deep, and consisted of firm, clean reddish brown sandy-clay with frequent stones and pebbles. There was no pottery, bone fragments or charcoal flecks to indicate that this deposit was of archaeological interest; this interpretation was supported by the appearance of a similar but irregular deposit on another ridge. Therefore it is considered that these are variations in the subsoil, rather than archaeological activity.



Figure 3: View of the deepest part of the strip, showing the potential ‘feature’, which upon investigation was believed to be a natural variation in subsoil



Figure 4: General view of the area from the south-west following the strip.

Conclusion

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording carried out during landscaping for a manege in the grounds of the Manor House, Great Addington did not reveal any previously unknown archaeological activity. An area of ridge and

furrow, specifically comprising part of six ridges, was affected by the groundworks. However, no earlier archaeological deposits were encountered. The strip did not remove the full depth of topsoil, except on the north-west edge of the excavation. Therefore should any earlier archaeological features exist beneath the ridge and furrow, they were not compromised by the current development.

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Mark and Ben of KSM Contractors and Andy, the gardener at the Manor House, for their kind help and co-operation during the work. Patrick Clay managed the project.

References

- Astill, A. 1988 'Fields' in Astill and A. Grant *The Countryside of Medieval England* London: Blackwell
- Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)
- Clay, P. 2012 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication Location: Manor House, Cranford Rd, Great Addington, Northamptonshire*
- DCLG 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Planning and the Historic Environment*. Department of Communities and local Government March 2010
- Hall, D. 1982 *Medieval Fields*
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010 *Code of Conduct*
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Archive

The archive for this project will be retained by ULAS, until such time as facilities are available in Northamptonshire and consists of the following

Digital photographs

Black and white contact prints and negatives

Colour slides

Photo Index

Site notes

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26.01.2012

Appendix: The Finds

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, three sherds, weighing 13 grams, was catalogued by context with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; 2001), the Northamptonshire Ceramic Type Series and the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999). The results are shown below (Table 1).

All the finds were from unstratified contexts, and included two early medieval pottery sherds, their condition and relatively small size suggesting that they had been deposited during the manuring of the open fields in the Middle Ages. Another pottery fragment is post-medieval or modern in date. Also present was part of the stem of a post-medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe.

Similar medieval pottery was recorded during excavations at north Raunds, approximately 5km to the south-east of the village of Great Addington (Blinkhorn 2009).

Bibliography

Blinkhorn, P., 2009 ‘The pottery from Langham Road and Burystead’ in M. Audouy and A. Chapman (eds) *Raunds: the origins and growth of a midland village, AD450-1500. Excavations in north Raunds, Northamptonshire 1977-87: Raunds Area Project.* Oxbow, Exeter, 173-193.

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999 *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester,* Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**.
Northamptonshire CTS - Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type-Series

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
U/S	CTS 319 – Lyveden/ Stanion ‘A’ ware	1	2	Abraded hand made body sherd –, c.1150 +
U/S	CTS 303 – Sandy Coarse ware	1	3	Abraded hand made and possibly wheel finished body sherd, 12th – 13th C.
U/S	EA - Earthenware	1	8	Body – red slip and glaze internally, post medieval/modern.

Site/ Parish: Great Addington, Northants Accession No.: GAM 2012 Document Ref: great addington1.docx Material: pottery & clay pipe Site Type: field with ridge & furrow	Submitter: J. Browning Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 27.02.12 Method of Recovery: watching brief Job Number: 12/585
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