



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Inspection  
and Recording Exercise at,  
39 Church Road,  
Kibworth Beauchamp,  
Leicestershire.  
NGR: SP 6843 9429**

Andrew Hyam



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**An Archaeological Inspection and Recording Exercise at  
39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp,  
Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SP 6843 9429**

**Andrew Hyam**

**P.A 11/00163/PCD**

**For: Isherwood McCann on behalf of Mr G. Harrison**

Approved by:

Signed: ...



Date: 04/11/2011

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## **An Archaeological Inspection and Recording Exercise at 39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire.**

**NGR: SP 6843 9429**

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### **Summary**

*Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire. The work took place on the 22nd of March 2011 in advance of the construction of a single domestic dwelling on the site of a former tennis court within the grounds of Number 39. The development site lies within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village. The foundations for the proposed development were excavated and the footprint of the new building and surrounding area was reduced to reveal an undisturbed natural substratum of pale yellow brown silty-clay. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under Accession Number X.A.51.2011*

### **Introduction**

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010) this document forms the report for an archaeological attendance for inspection and recording at 39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire. Under planning application number 11/00163/PCD it was proposed that a single detached dwelling will be built on the site of a former tennis court within the grounds of Number 39. When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, recommended the requirement for a programme of archaeological monitoring work during soil stripping and groundworks due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned by Isherwood McCann on behalf of the client, Mr G. Harrison.

The work was in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI – ULAS 2011) approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority.

### **Background**

The village of Kibworth Beauchamp lies immediately to the south and south-west of its close neighbour Kibworth Harcourt. Both lie approximately 6km north-west of Market Harborough and 6km to the south-east of Leicester (Fig. 1). The village lies to the south of the main A6 London Road and is on the edge of a steep slope which drops away to the south-east. The development site is located to the north of the churchyard on the corner of Church Road and the A6 (Figs. 2 and 3). The house presently occupying the north-east corner of the development site is a large 18th century house of reasonably high status which faces down the line of the A6 to the south-east (Fig. 4). The position of the house was clearly located to

be seen by anyone travelling along the road from the direction of Market Harborough. The development site slopes down from the house towards the site and down to the site of a large sandpit which covers most of the southern half of the property (Fig. 5). Midway between the house and the sandpit is a wide terrace which was until recently used as a tennis court. The proposed new house is to be located on the terrace to the south-west of the former tennis court.

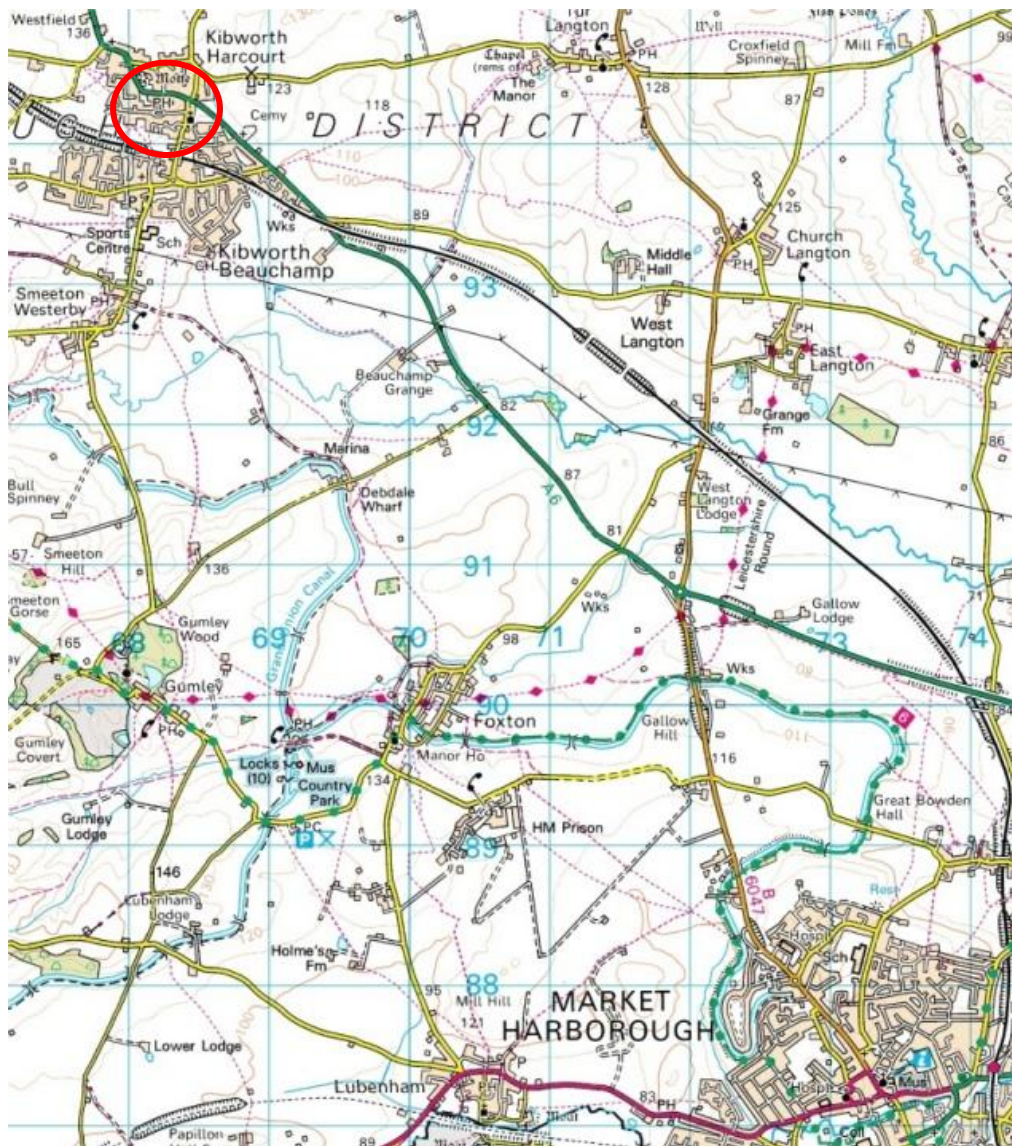


Figure 1. Location map of Kibworth Harcourt

North to top of map

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Figure 2. Development site location map

Site highlighted. North to top of map

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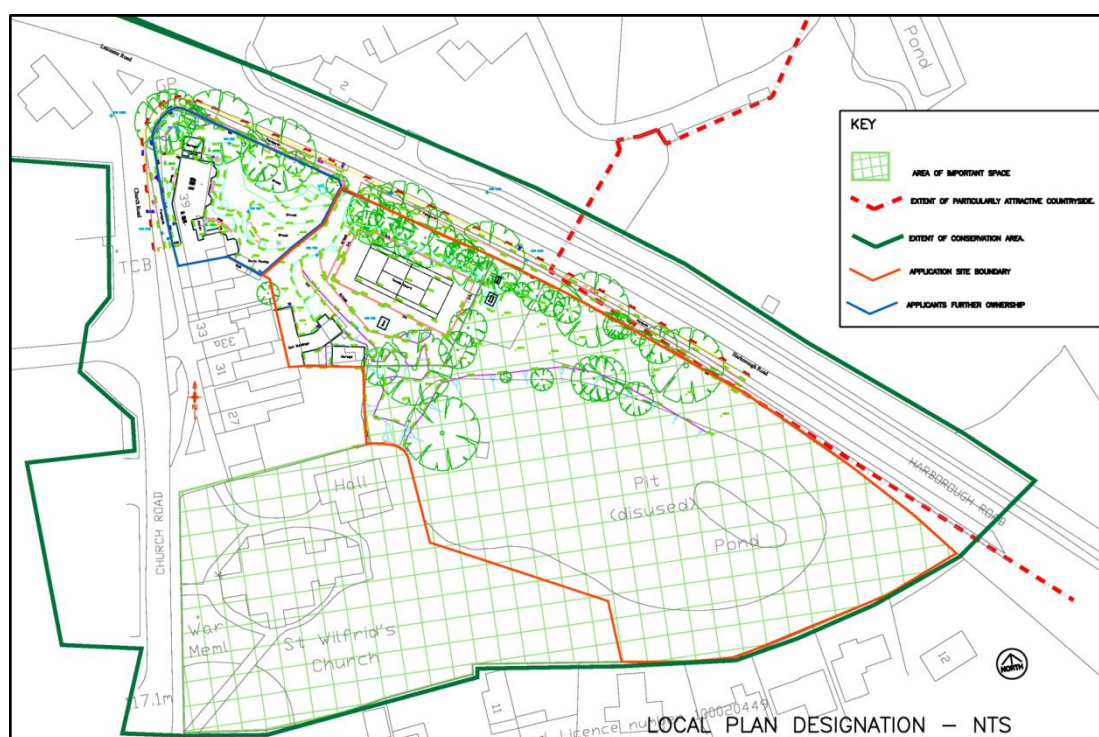


Figure 3. Development site  
Plan supplied by developer





Figure 4. Development site and house  
Looking northwest  
Stripped tennis court and proposed foundation trenches in foreground



Figure 5. Development site and sandpit  
Looking south-east

The site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Kibworth (HER Ref MLE16877), 60 metres north of the medieval church of St Wilfred (HER Ref MLE10762: Browning 2007). It also lies on the street frontage on an area shown as undeveloped land on the 18th century Enclosure Map. Undisturbed buried archaeological evidence spanning the evolution of the village up to its more recent past might therefore be expected within in the development area. All editions of the Ordnance Survey maps from the 1886 first edition up to the present day show the house and sandpit but no other development on the site.

In order to create the existing tennis court the area had been landscaped to create a flat terrace. Historic Ordnance Survey maps do not show when this court was installed but a terrace seems to have been created at some point between the 1920 and 1970 editions.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the work, as identified in the WSI, were through archaeological attendance and investigation:

- To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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**

For the current development work the surface of the tennis court had been removed before the start of the archaeological inspection. This created a suitable level surface on which to excavate the foundations for the new building meaning that only the surface and underlying hardcore were removed. A tracked mini-excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket was used to excavate the foundations.

The foundation trenches were examined where appropriate by hand cleaning with the intention that any archaeological deposits that may be located would be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights would be taken as appropriate.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and black and white 35mm photographs were taken throughout the work. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.



All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

## Results

As mentioned above, prior to the start of the archaeological inspection the surface of the tennis court and the underlying make-up had been removed in preparation for the groundworks. This revealed a level surface of exposed natural yellowish brown silty clay with only thin patches of mid- brown sandy subsoil surviving in places. To the south-east, towards the sandpit area, the natural substratum changed to a mid- orange clay-sand. No topsoil survived within the area of the former tennis court.

On the eastern side of the development area, where the land rose up towards the church yard, the ground had been recently excavated to create a continuous flat surface extending westwards towards the tennis court area (Fig. 6). At its maximum depth approximately 1.5m of topsoil and subsoil had been removed to reveal the natural substratum with thin patches of mid brown sandy clay subsoil on top. Further hand cleaning and partial levelling revealed more areas of natural yellowish brown silty clay.



Figure 6. Development site and excavated slope  
Looking west

Foundation trenches measuring 0.6m wide and up to 1m deep were excavated around and within the footprint of the proposed new house. The excavations showed that any remaining subsoil only survived to a maximum depth of around 0.05m beneath which lay the undisturbed natural substratum of yellowish brown silty clay (Fig. 7).

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the development area.



Figure 7. Excavated foundation trenches  
Looking west

### **Discussion**

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the work. It seems likely that if any archaeological features were present in the area of the former tennis court the earlier landscaping for the court would have removed them. However, the small amount of subsoil that remained suggested that only a minimal amount of natural substratum had been removed, which would therefore indicate that there were no archaeological features within the area.

The small area on the west of the development did not show any evidence that it may have contained any archaeological deposits despite having such a depth of material removed.

### **Archive**

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro-forma watching brief recording sheet,

1 photographic record sheet containing digital photographic record,

1 photographic record sheet containing black and white photographic record,

1 contact sheet of 19 digital photographs,

1 contact sheet of 8 35mm black and white photographs,

Eight 35mm black and white negatives,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

## **Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

## **Bibliography**

Brown, D., 2008. *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Browning, J., 2005. *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Development at School Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire (NGR SP681 937)*

*ULAS 2011 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording 39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire NGR: SP 6843 9429. ULAS 11/599*

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04/11/2011



## Appendix 1. Digital photographs



XA51 2011 (1).jpg



XA51 2011 (2).jpg



XA51 2011 (3).jpg



XA51 2011 (4).jpg



XA51 2011 (5).jpg



XA51 2011 (6).jpg



XA51 2011 (7).jpg



XA51 2011 (8).jpg



XA51 2011 (9).jpg



XA51 2011 (10).jpg



XA51 2011 (11).jpg



XA51 2011 (12).jpg



XA51 2011 (13).jpg



XA51 2011 (14).jpg



XA51 2011 (15).jpg



XA51 2011 (16).jpg



XA51 2011 (17).jpg



XA51 2011 (18).jpg



XA51 2011 (19).jpg

## Appendix 2. OASIS information

Project Name	39 Church Road, Kibworth Beauchamp
Project Type	Inspection and recording
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Tennis Court
Development Type	Domestic dwelling
Reason for Investigation	New development
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 6843 9429
Start/end dates of field work	22.03.2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	0.04 ha

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