



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**Interim Report for
An Archaeological Watching Brief at
2 Melton Road, Long Clawson,
Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 7182 2690**

Andrew Hyam



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**An Interim Report for an
Archaeological Watching Brief at
Culfers Hey,
2 Melton Road, Long Clawson,
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NGR: SK 7182 2690

A R Hyam

For: HSSP Architects

Approved by

Signed:



Date: 1/4/2012

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Culfers Hey, 2 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. The work took place between the 1st and 8th of December 2011 during the construction of a two-bedroom cottage. The full development is for the two-bedroom cottage, a timber-framed three-bedroom house and associated garage. The timber-framed house and garage will be constructed at a later date in 2012. The development site lies within the core of the medieval and post-medieval village and records show that a number of medieval and post-medieval finds have been identified, hence the requirement for archaeological work.

This part of the report covers the site levelling and foundation trenches for the two-bed cottage on the southern side of the site. 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 Museums Service under Accession Number XA.177.2011

Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE6 Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team this document forms the first half of a report for an archaeological watching brief at Culfers Hey, 2 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. Under planning application number 11/00632/FUL it is proposed to construct two new build dwellings, one two-bedroom cottage and one three-bedroom timber-framed house with associated garage. A new private driveway also forms part of the development. The development work will take place in two stages commencing with the two-bed cottage followed by the timber-framed house at a later date, probably in the latter half of 2012. 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 work in the form of a watching brief to take place due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned on behalf of the client by HSSP Architects.

Background

The village of Long Clawson lies approximately 7km north-north-east of Melton Mowbray and 3km to the east of Nether Broughton (Fig. 1). Long Clawson is, as its

name might suggest, an elongated village with the development site, known as Culfers Hey, 2 Melton Road, being situated towards the western end of the village near to the junction with West End, the road which forms the main spine of the village (Fig. 2). The church is located nearly 0.5km to the east of the site and the Hall, with medieval origins, lies on the western edge of Long Clawson. The ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation notes that the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval village core of Long Clawson and that the Leicestershire HER has identified a number of archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity including a post-medieval road surface and an area to the south where archaeological work produced post-medieval pottery. The development site was therefore considered to have a good potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the assessment area.

As noted, the proposed planning application is to build two new dwellings, one-two bedroom cottage and one-three bedroom timber-frame house with associated garage. A private driveway serving the new development will also be constructed. The development site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 7182 2690 at a height of approximately 73m OD. The 1884 first edition Ordnance Survey map of the site shows it as an open space with similar boundaries to that seen today with a farm house, known as Headland Farm, and other buildings being at the south-east corner of a larger field. Culfers Hey is a two-storey house built on the south side of Headland Farm and appears to date from around the 1970s. Its present boundary describes a rough triangle running from east to west. Both existing buildings are to remain although Culfers Hey is currently being extensively refurbished and modernised (Fig. 3). The two-bedroom cottage will be built on the south side of Culfers Hey and the timber-framed home and garage will be to the west of Headland Farm. The land rises from the Melton Road towards open fields at the rear of the elongated property. A number of large trees run along the front of the site facing east onto Melton Road (Fig. 4). Trees are also situated around the other boundaries of the site. Running down the slope, along the southern boundary, is a shallow ditch which enters a brick-built culvert to pass under Melton Road.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet number 142 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Bytham Sand and gravel over sandstone bedrock.



Figure 1. Long Clawson village location.

1km grid. North to top of map

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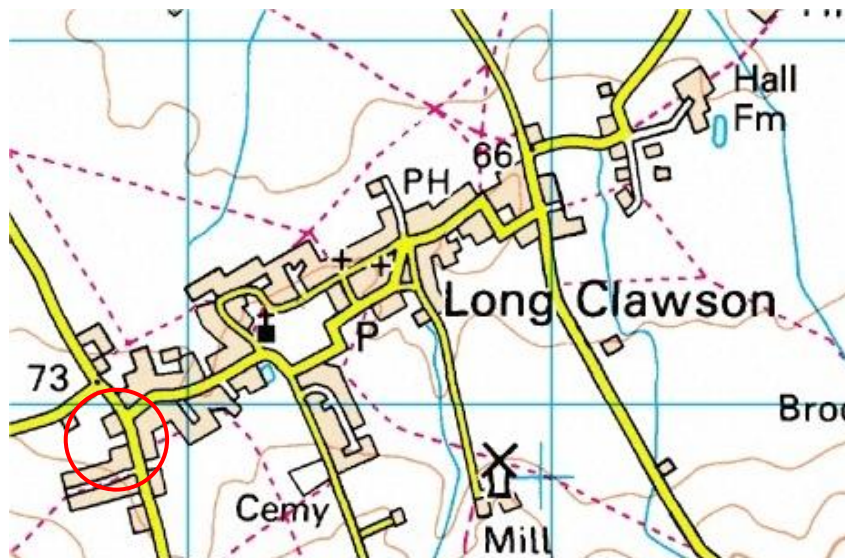


Figure 2. Site location

1km grid. North to top of map

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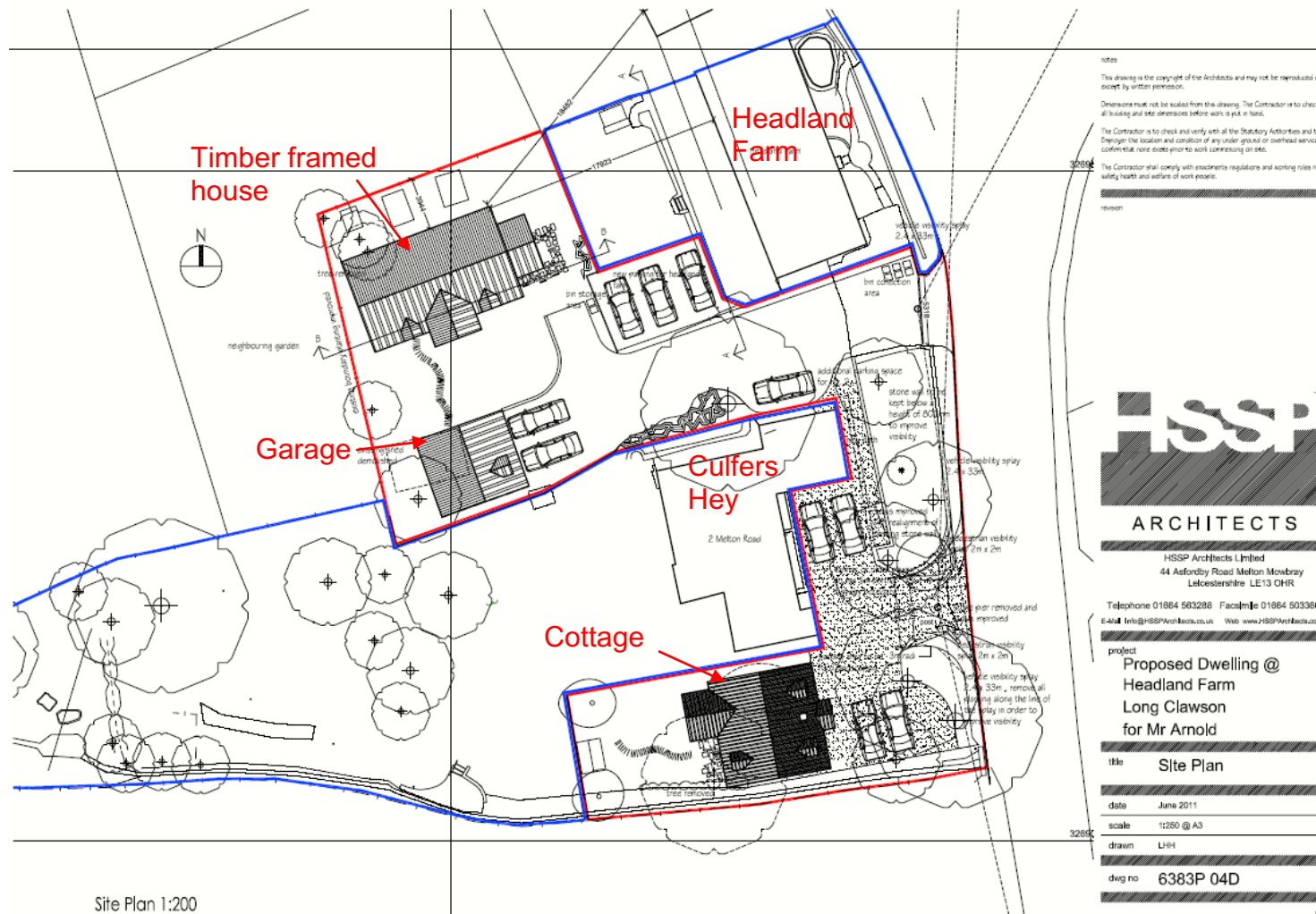


Figure 3. Plan of development site
Plan supplied by HSSP Architects. Existing and proposed buildings highlighted



Figure 4. Development site viewed from Melton Road
Looking north-west. Proposed cottage site on left of picture. The house that can be seen is Culfers Hey.

Objectives

The main objectives of the watching brief were identified in the ULAS WSI were:

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 advance understanding of the heritage assets.

To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology (for the two-bed cottage)

Once the overgrown garden had been cleared of shrubs and undergrowth the sloping land to the south of Culfers Hey was levelled using a tracked mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All of the topsoil and some of the subsoil were removed to create a level terrace on which to excavate the foundation trenches. The foundation trenches were excavated using the mini digger fitted with a toothed bucket. Spoil was inspected for finds and dateable material before being taken off site.

The recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS Design Specification for Archaeological Work for *Culfers Hey, 2 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire*. All groundworks and deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. Work was recorded on standard ULAS pro-forma watching brief recording forms. Any drawn sections of archaeological features would be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results (for the two-bedroom cottage)

Because of the nature of the sloping site which rose by approximately one metre from Melton Road in the east to the rear of the property it was necessary to remove the topsoil and some subsoil to create a level terrace (Fig. 5). Although quite heavily disturbed by the removal of the shrubbery and undergrowth the topsoil consisted of a dark-brown clay silt with an average depth of around 0.2m. Removal of this revealed a subsoil of mid yellowish-brown silty clay with occasional patches of lighter sandy gravel. The levelling operation removed only part of the subsoil layer on the lower, eastern, area of the cottage footprint but the westernmost 2 metres partially exposed the natural substratum of light yellowish-brown clay. No archaeological features or deposits could be seen in this exposed area except for a horseshoe-profile field drain running from beneath the existing Culfers Hey house south-eastwards to the shallow ditch running down the southern property boundary.

The foundation trenches measured 0.65m wide and 1.2m deep in the western half of the footprint. Due to the proximity of the surrounding trees the trenches had to be stepped down to a depth of 1.6m in the east. The light yellowish-brown clay substratum changed to a slightly darker bluish-grey towards the base of the trenches and some root disturbance could be seen especially towards the south-east corner (Fig. 6).

All faces of the trenches were examined for earthfast archaeological features and the spoil scanned for finds but, with the exception of the horseshoe drain seen during the levelling phase, no features were found.



Figure 5. Levelled site
Looking west. Note exposed natural at far end of terrace near excavator



Figure 6. Excavated foundation trenches
Looking east

Discussion

Despite the relatively high potential, no archaeological features or deposits were found during the course of the watching brief. The ground immediately to the south of the existing house appears to have undergone a minimal level of disturbance. Proof of this comes from the surviving field drain running across the site which must be a remnant of the former land use as a field. However, any potential street frontage activity may well have been disturbed and destroyed by the root action caused by the relatively high number of trees.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

3 pro-forma trench recording forms,

2 photo record sheets, 1 for colour digital and one for 35mm black and white,

1 contact sheet of 35mm black and white photographs,

35mm black and white negatives,

1 contact sheet of 16 digital photographs,

1 cd of this report and the digital photographs.

Publication

A record of the project will be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by A. Hyam. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Bibliography

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

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work. *Culfers Hey, 2Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire*. ULAS

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Appendix 1. OASIS Information

Project Name	2 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	R Buckley
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	No previous work.
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New dwellings
Reason for Investigation	Archaeological potential
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 7182 2690
Start/end dates of field work	1.12.2011 to 8.12.2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	Approx 100m ²

Appendix 2. Digital photographs



Long Clawson 001.jpg



Long Clawson 002.jpg



Long Clawson 003.jpg



Long Clawson 004.jpg



Long Clawson 005.jpg



Long Clawson 006.jpg



Long Clawson 007.jpg



Long Clawson 008.jpg



Long Clawson 009.jpg



Long Clawson 010.jpg



Long Clawson 011.jpg



Long Clawson 012.jpg



Long Clawson 013.jpg



Long Clawson 014.jpg



Long Clawson 015.jpg



Long Clawson 016.jpg

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