



**University of
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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching At The Kemps,
Pegs Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire
(NGR SP 706568 816891)**

Gavin Speed



ULAS Report No 2012-194

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at The Kemps,
Pegs Lane, Clipston,
Northamptonshire
SP 706568 816891**

Gavin Speed

For

Mr and Mrs A Rogers

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 28.11.2012

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

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

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Kemps, Pegs Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire (SP 706568 816891)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at The Kemps, Pegs Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on the 20th and 21st November 2012.

Prehistoric worked flint, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil; 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, under accession number NH_KPLC12.

1. Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS for Mr and Mrs A Rogers in November 2012 on land at The Kemps, Pegs Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire (SP 706568 816891, Figs 1-2). This was undertaken in advance of an application for proposed erection of three stables, hay store, feed room, tack room with store above. The consent has been granted with a condition attached for an archaeological programme of works. (Planning application no. DA/2012/0468).

The development site has been identified as an area of archaeological potential based upon assessment of archaeological data held by the Northamptonshire Environment Record (HER). In view of the potential impact of the development upon possible archaeological remains, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). Mitigation in the form of Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication is required by Daventry District Council

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) has been commissioned to undertake the work on behalf of the client. Fieldwork was carried out in November 2012, following the Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2012) and involved the machine excavation of topsoil and subsoil removal within the proposed development area.

2. Site Description, Location and Geology

The site is located in the village of Clipston, Northamptonshire (Figure 1), in the district of Daventry. The development area lies in a field to the south of a property known as The Kemps, at the end of Pegs Lane, with the village lying to the east (Figure 2). The development site lies at a height of approximately 152m aOD, and

covers c.0.1ha. The British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The development area is currently a pasture field, in use as a paddock.

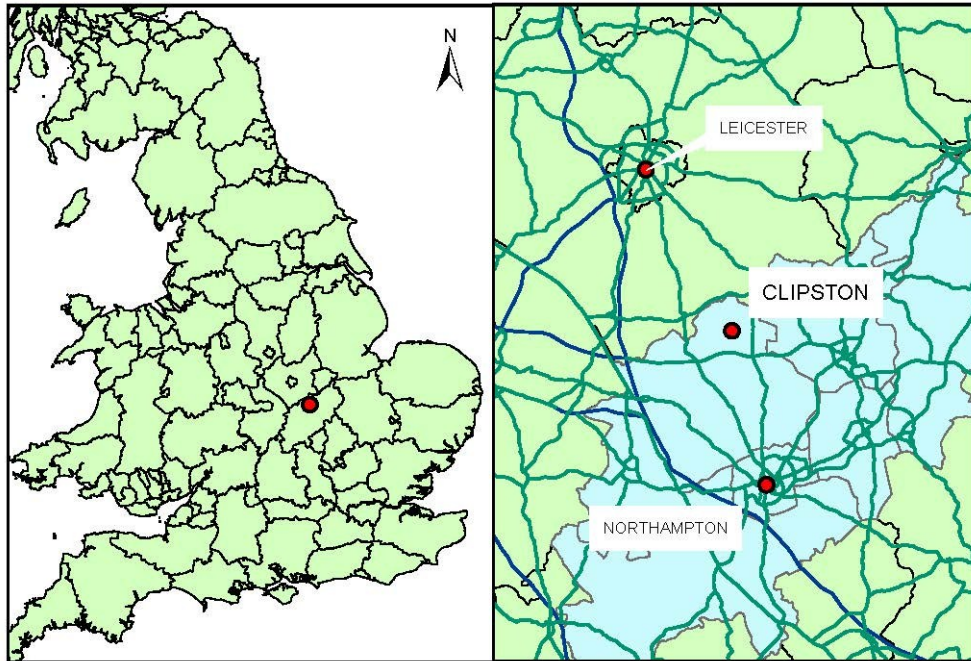


Figure 1: Site Location within the UK and Northamptonshire

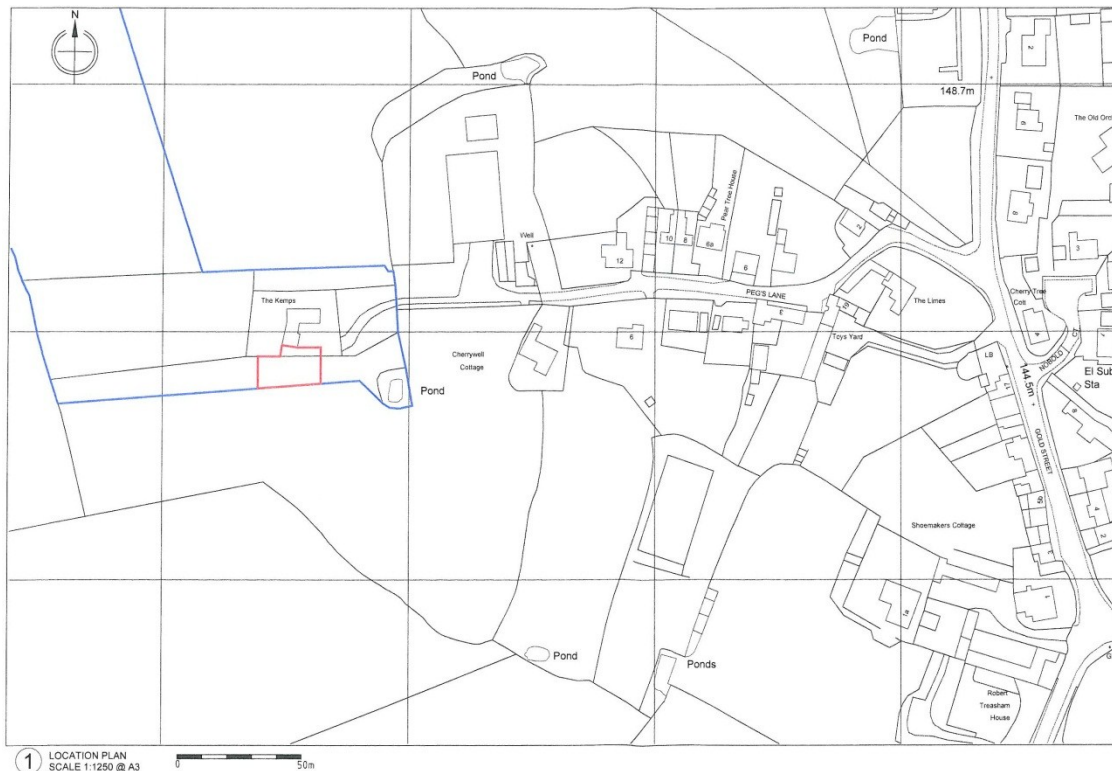


Figure 2: Location plan within Clipston, red shaded area (plan provided by client)

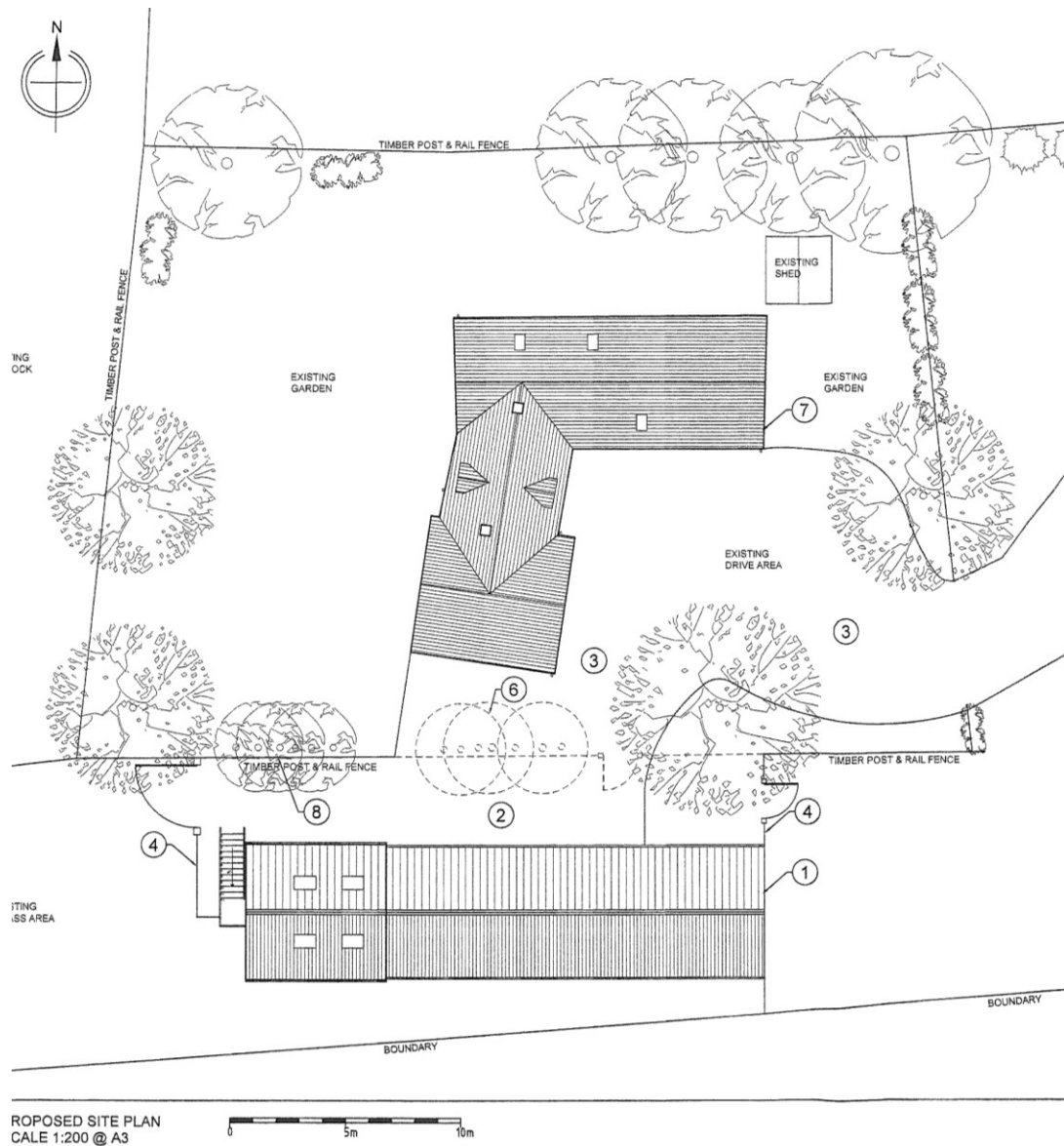


Figure 3: Plan of proposed development, 1 = proposed stable block (supplied by client)

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The development site lies in an area of archaeological significance close to the historic core of the village of Clipston. The village has Anglo-Saxon origins, and is mentioned in Domesday, the name is thought to have a Scandinavian origin meaning 'Klyppr's farm' (Hall and Harding 1979, 22). There has been no previous archaeological work in the development area.

4. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological investigation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist, using a small tracked excavator with a 1.6m ditching bucket, in advance of the commencement of groundworks and determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. The work took place on 20th and 21st November 2012, and was observed by the author.

Prior to any groundworks, general photographs of the site areas were taken. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The area was excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first. The area was to be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features would be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. The location of the area was tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The work followed the approved design specification (Clay 2012) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

6. Results

The area stripped of topsoil and subsoil measured *c.*23m E-W, and 6 to 10m N-S (Figure 4). The depth excavated ranged from 0.41m at the west-end and 0.3m at the east-end. The topsoil (*c.*0.1m thick) consisted of a fairly dark sandy-loam, dark brown

in colour and contained remarkably few stones and substantial grass roots. The subsoil (c.0.2m thick) was a light grey silt-clay, again there were few stones. Natural substratum was reached at 0.3-0.35m, and consisted of yellow clay at the west-end and gravels at the east-end. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks. Pottery and worked flint were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The worked flint consisted of a Mesolithic bladelet (c.8000 - 4500 BC), and two secondary flakes of a broad late prehistoric date (c.4500 – 0 BC). The pottery consisted of 14 sherds, ranging in date from early Saxon (AD 450-850) to high medieval (AD 1200-1500).

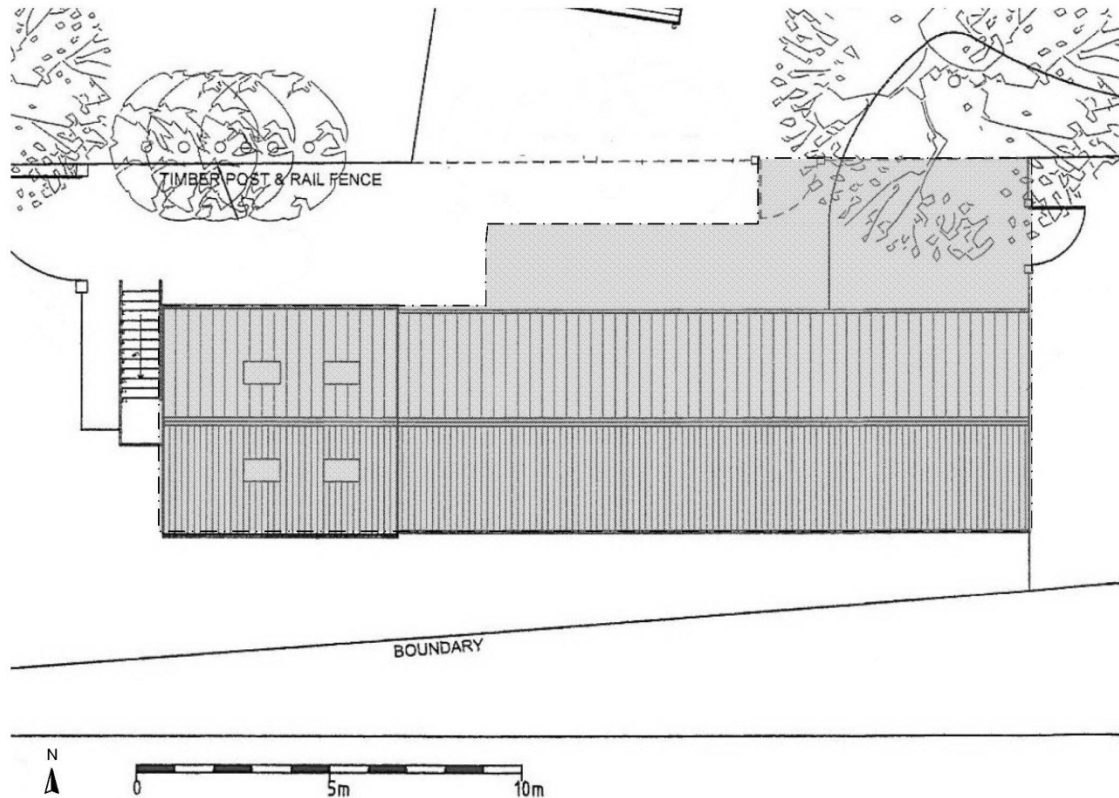


Figure 4: Detailed view of area removed of topsoil and subsoil, shaded grey (modified plan from client)



Figure 5: View of excavation in progress, looking east, 1/2 metre scale.



Figure 6: View of fully stripped area, looking east, 1/2 metre scale.



Figure 7: View of a typical section showing topsoil and subsoil, 1/2 metre scale.

7. The Finds

The Worked Flint by Lynden Cooper

Two secondary flakes and one patinated tertiary bladelet were recovered from the subsoil, context 2. The latter is Mesolithic in date.

The Pottery by Deborah Sawday

The pottery, sherds, 14 sherds, weighing 109 grams, and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.14 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type-Series (Blinkhorn 1996).

The results are shown below, (tables 1 and 2).

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

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight	EVE	Date Range
Early Middle Saxon					
CSF	Clipston Saxon fabric	1	7		
Total		1	7		AD450-850
Late Saxon/Earlier Medieval					
CTS100	Saint Neots	1	3	0.05	
Total		1	3	0.05	AD850/900-1100
Earlier Medieval					
CTS209	South Lincs. Oolitic ware	2	19		
CTS319	Lyveden A ware	2	18		
CTS330	Shelly Coarse ware	6	30	0.09	
Total		10	67	0.09	AD1100/1150-1400
High Medieval					
CTS320	Lyveden B ware	2	32		
Total		2	32		AD1200-1500.
Site Total		14	109	0.14	

The pottery has been divided into broad date ranges based on the range of fabrics present although the distinction between some of the medieval calcareous wares in particular can be problematic given the difficulty of differentiating between them by fabric analysis alone where only fragmentary vessel forms are present (Blinkhorn 2001). The dating of Lyveden B ware has recently been revised, and the industry is now considered to be longer-lived than originally thought, with a terminal date of c.1500, (Chapman, Blinkhorn, and Chapman, 2008, 254-255).

The sherd of Early Middle Saxon pottery is of note, although here as with the other finds, it was evidently residual in a soil layer. Similar material has previously been recorded at Clipston in association with a sunken featured building (Blinkhorn 1996). The pottery also provides some evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity. The assemblage of medieval wares although limited in terms of sherd numbers, is typical of north Northamptonshire. The range of identifiable medieval vessel types; jars and bowls, are also typically domestic in nature.

Table 2: The Flint and Saxon and Later Pottery by material/fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Material/Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
	FLINT			
2		3		Two secondary flakes and a patinated tertiary bladelet. The latter is Mesolithic in date.
	POT			
1 topsoil	CTS330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	6	Upright, squared bowl rim, external diameter c.190mm, EVE 0.025, c.1100-1400
1	CTS319 – Lyveden Stanion A ware	1	10	Base, flat fragment, sooted externally c.1150-1400.
2 subsoil	CSF - Clipston Saxon fabric	1	7	Body, grey/black core, buff surfaces, quartzite up to 2mm, as CSF2 – but without the limestone, early/middle Saxon.

2	CTS100 - St Neots type	1	3	Broken jar rim fragment, with externally burning/ sooting, (McCarthy 1979, fig.80.19), estimated rim diameter 140mm, EVE 0.05. Pinkish buff internally, & grey core, 850-1100.
2	CTS330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	5	Simple handmade upright bowl rim, estimated diameter 170mm, 0.03 EVE. Pinkish buff internally, & margins, grey core, sooted externally, similar at West Coton (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.14.90). Fine fabric, possibly transitional from St Neots c.1100-1400.
2	CTS330 – Shelly Coarse ware	3	11	Fine shelly fabric, pinkish buff surfaces, one externally sooted. All handmade, c.1100-1400.
2	CTS330 – Shelly Coarse ware	1	8	Everted & externally thickened jar rim, similar at Northampton (McCarthy 1979, fig.81.56), estimated diameter 200mm, 0.06 EVE, c.1100-1400.
2	CTS319 – Lyveden Stanion A ware	1	8	Thick walled body sherd, c.1150-1400.
2	CTS320 – Lyveden Stanion B ware	2	32	One externally and one internally slipped and glazed, possibly a jug and a bowl respectively, c.1200-1500.
2	CTS209 – South Lincs. Oolitic ware	2	19	Base/body fragments, both externally sooted/burnt c.1100-1300.

8. Conclusion

The watching brief carried out during groundworks for a new stable block at The Kemps, Pegs Lane, Clipston did not reveal any previously unknown archaeological features, although prehistoric worked flint, along with Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil.

The prehistoric flint indicates the potential for prehistoric settlement within the locality. The presence of a sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery indicates Saxon settlement within the locality, the village has Anglo-Saxon origins, and an early Saxon burial is known from Church Lane (HER MNN24119). Slightly further afield a possible sunken-featured building and pottery were discovered during the construction of the A14 (c.2.5km south at SP 7101 7931, see Audouy and Sharman 1993, 50). The site is surrounded by earthworks, including ridge and furrow (the field systems were extensively surveyed in 1976 – see Hall and Harding 1979), and so the pottery from the topsoil / subsoil could relate to medieval ploughing practices.

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr A and Mrs C Rogers for their kind help and co-operation during the work. The fieldwork was undertaken by Gavin Speed, the pottery was analysed by Deborah Sawday, and the worked flint by Lynden Cooper. Patrick Clay managed the project.

10. Archive

The archive for this project will be retained by ULAS, until such time as facilities are available in Northamptonshire, under accession number NH_KPLC12.

The archive contains:

- Recording sheets (x2)
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives (x1 film)
- Colour slides
- Site notes

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>, record number: universi1-138229.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	The Kemps, Pegs Lane, Clipston, Northamptonshire
Summary	Prehistoric worked flint, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil; no archaeological deposits were encountered during this work.
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: no. / Future: unlikely
Current Land Use	Pasture field
Development Type	Stable
Reason for Investigation	NPPF (section 12)
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 706568 816891
Start/end dates of field work	20/11/12-21/11/12
Archive Recipient	TBA
Study Area	0.1ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: NH_KPLC12 OASIS form ID: universi1-138229

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Gavin Speed
Senior Archaeological Supervisor
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: gs50@le.ac.uk
28.11.2012

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

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

