



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief
during turbine construction at Manor
Farm, Manor Road,
Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire
(SP 506 865)

Sophie Clarke



**An archaeological watching brief
during turbine construction
at Manor Farm, Manor Road,
Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire
(SP 506 865)**

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for

Heritage Collective on behalf of David Haynes

Planning Application Number 12/00032/FUL

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief undertaken to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of a wind turbine at Manor Farm, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire revealed no evidence for archaeological remains or deposits. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the accession number X.A67.2012.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Heritage Collective on behalf of David Haynes to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground-works associated with the construction of a new wind turbine at Manor Farm, Manor Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (SP 506 865).

This archaeological work is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012).

The watching brief was required as a condition of the planning consent for a wind turbine at the site issued by Harborough District Council

The site lies close to the deserted medieval village earthworks of Bittesby (Scheduled Monument SAM 17034) and also close to the remains of a moat and medieval earthworks and fishponds at Manor Farm (SAM 17038).

Location and Geology

Manor Farm lies at the southern edge of Ullesthorpe village in the Harborough District of Leicestershire (Figure 1). The site of the turbine is within a field situated 800m south-east of the farm. Access is along an existed farm track (Figure 2).

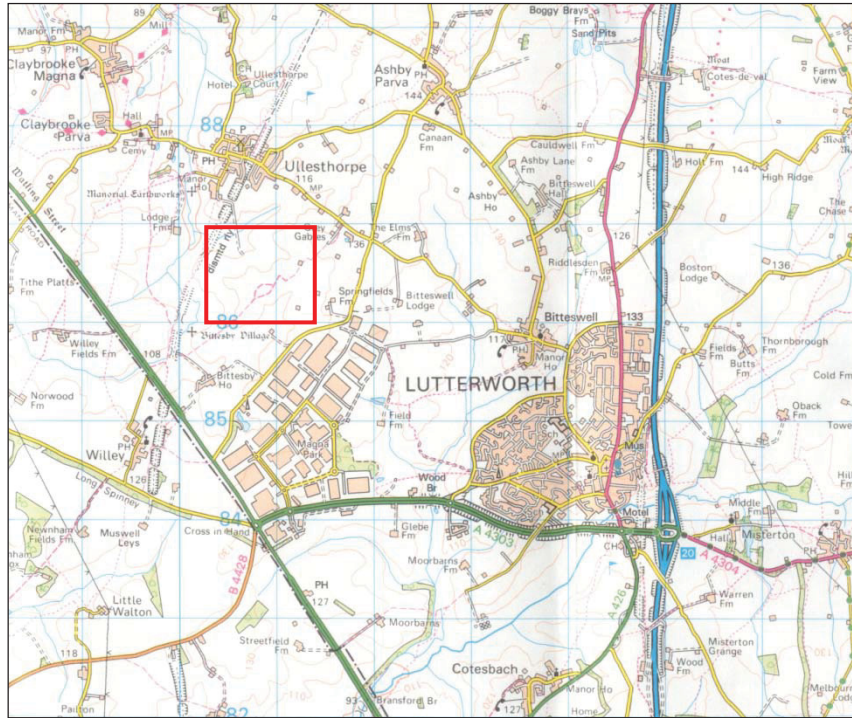


Figure 1: Site Location

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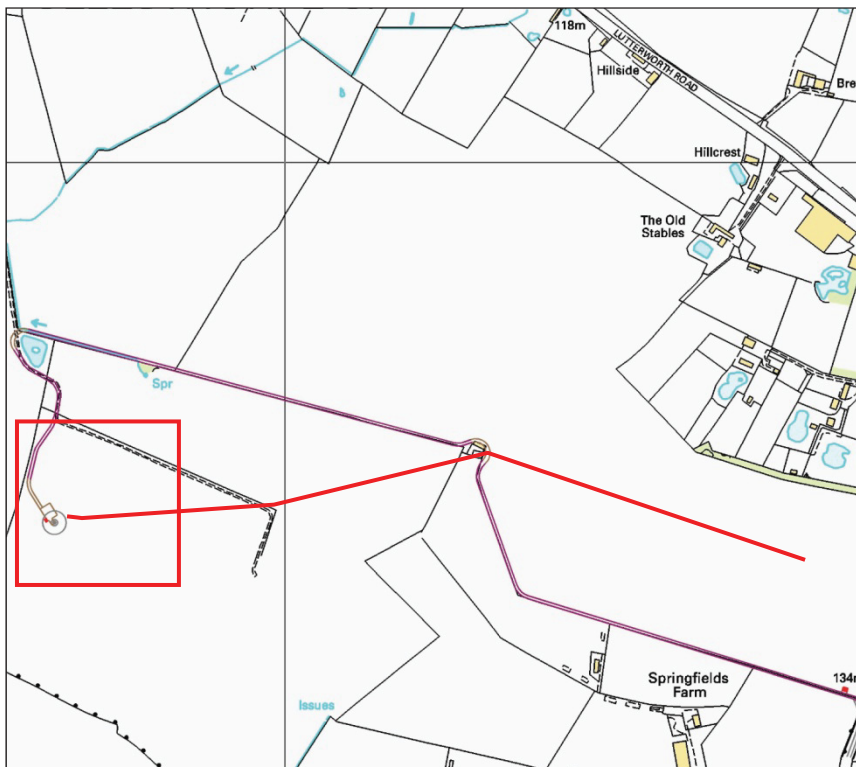


Figure 2: Location of wind turbine and line of cable trench (taken from plan supplied by client; not to scale).

Archaeological Background

The site lies around 900m north-east of the deserted medieval village of Bittesby (Historic Environment Record ref: MLE1226; Scheduled Monument SM 17034) and around 800m south-east of the medieval moat, fishponds and shifted village remains at Manor Farm (MLE2598; SM 17038).

Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found 200m west of the site (MLE10324) and the site of a Roman villa is thought to be located 800m south-west of the site (MLE1230). Findspots for prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds also lie nearby.

Archaeological Objectives

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

The aims of the watching brief 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 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 Design Specification for Archaeological Work was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the archaeological supervision of topsoil removal and other groundworks associated with the installation of a single wind-turbine, including the excavation of cable trenches and the footprints of the turbine base and generator house. All groundworks were undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6m toothed ditching bucket.

Results

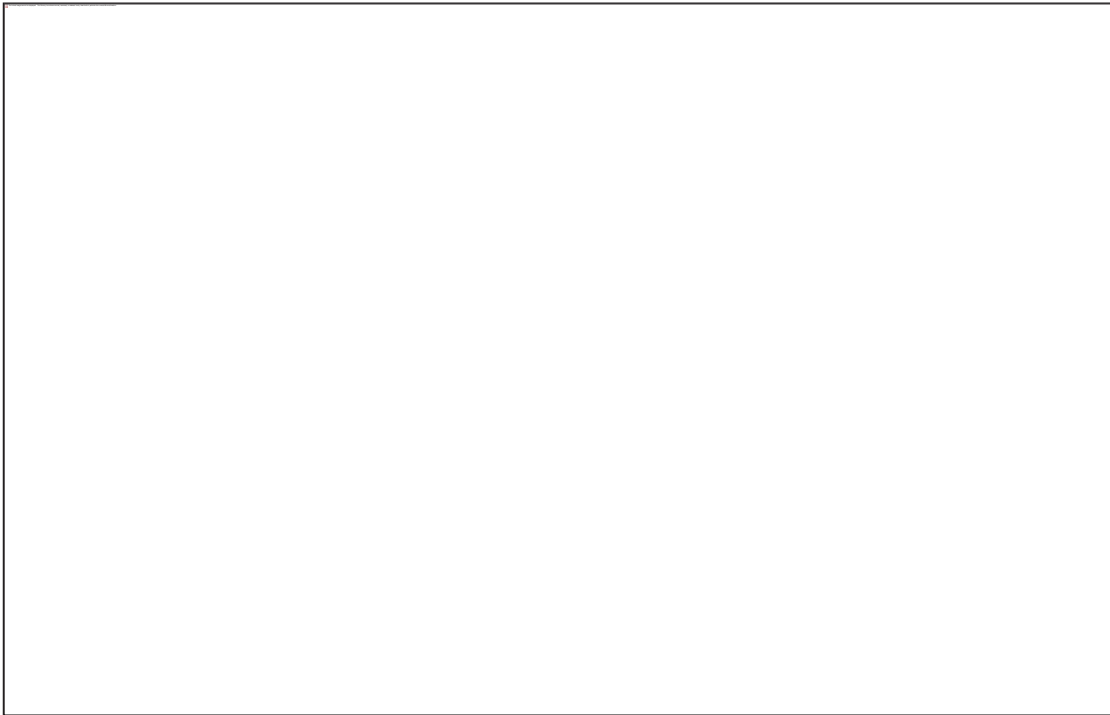


Figure 3: Site of turbine and substation, with route of cable trench marked (from plan supplied by g2 energy; not to scale).

The groundworks were monitored over the course of three separate visits made on the 12th June, the 28th June and the 17th of July by Sophie Clarke and Leon Hunt of ULAS.

At the time of the first site visit the footprint of the wind-turbine had already been excavated and backfilled with concrete. This consisted of an octagonal plan-shape measuring approximately 15m across and excavated to a depth of around 1m. The surrounding area had been stripped of topsoil, exposing the natural clay substratum, which showed no evidence of archaeological remains. The spoil heaps were examined for finds: occasional sherds of modern pottery were observed on site but not retained for analysis.



Figure 4: Turbine base, looking north.



Figure 5: Turbine base, looking north towards site of substation.

The purpose of the second visit, undertaken on the 28th June was to monitor the excavation of substation footprint. This consisted of a rectangular area measuring 3.4m long by 2.2m wide and 1.2m deep. Topsoil consisted of a layer of dark brown, silty clay measuring between 0.15m and 0.2m deep, lying directly above the natural boulder clay substratum. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during the course of these works.



Figure 6: Excavation of substation footprint, looking north.



Figure 7: Substation footprint, looking north.

On the 17th of July the site was visited to watch the excavation of the cable trench which extends eastwards away from the substation for approximately 1km before linking up with the main grid. The cable trench measured approximately 0.6m wide and up to 1.2m deep, revealing a roughly 0.3m deep layer of topsoil overlying natural boulder clay. No archaeological finds or deposits were noted during the course of the excavation of the trench.



Figure 8: Excavation of cable trench, looking east.



Figure 9: Laying of cable within trench, looking east.

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of a single wind turbine on land at Manor Farm, Ullesthorpe, revealed no evidence of archaeological deposits or remains.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sophie Clarke and Leon Hunt of ULAS and the project was managed by Vicki Score. ULAS would like to thank Heritage Collective for commissioning the work, David Haynes of Manor Farm and Lisa Clark of g2 energy for their assistance during this project.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the accession number X.A67.2012.

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