



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
At Little Cottage, 8, Clatterpot Lane,
Cottesmore, Rutland
NGR: SK 9022 1363**

Roger Kipling



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Little Cottage, 8, Clatterpot Lane,
Cottesmore, Rutland
NGR: SK 9022 1363**

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For: Juliet Burgess Ray

Approved by:

Signed: 

Date: 20 June 2012

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in June 2012 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Juliet Burgess Ray as a pre-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a dwelling house to the rear of Little Cottage, 8, Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland, in order to that the archaeological potential of the site might be assessed.

The evaluation work did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. The site archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum, Oakham, under the accession number XXX.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Little Cottage, 8, Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland. The application site lies within an area of archaeological interest, situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Cottesmore and adjacent to St Nicholas Church, which dates to the Norman period. In addition, excavations undertaken to the west of the site uncovered features and finds ranging from the Iron Age through the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Following NPPF (Section 12, Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment), Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an evaluation by trial trenching be undertaken in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.

Fieldwork was carried out on 12th June 2012 and involved the machine excavation of two trial trenches in order to assess the archaeological potential of the development area. All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The *LCC Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development (SK 9022 1363; centre) is situated in a small orchard to the rear of Little Cottage, 8, Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore, on the north-west edge of the village and adjacent to St Nicholas Church.

The British Geological Survey map, geology of Britain viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) shows that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of: Northamptonshire Sand Formation – Ooidal Ironstone.

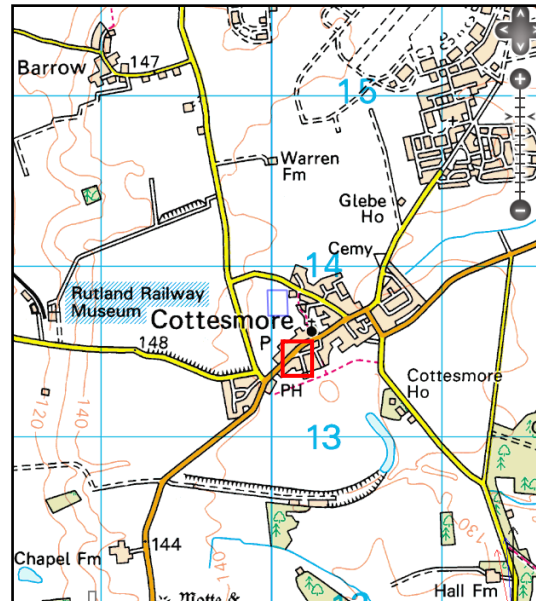


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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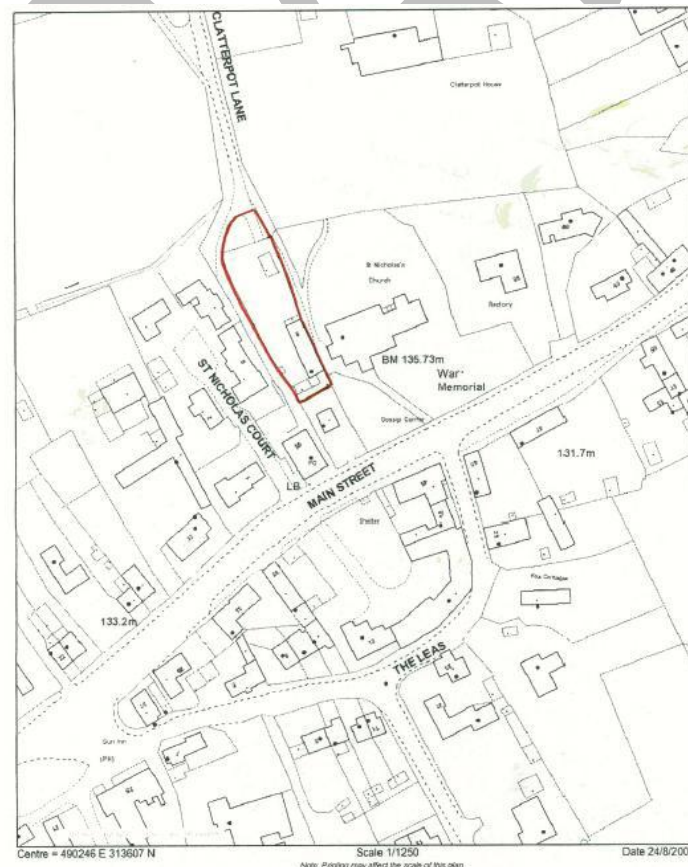


Figure 2: Location of application area (NTS)

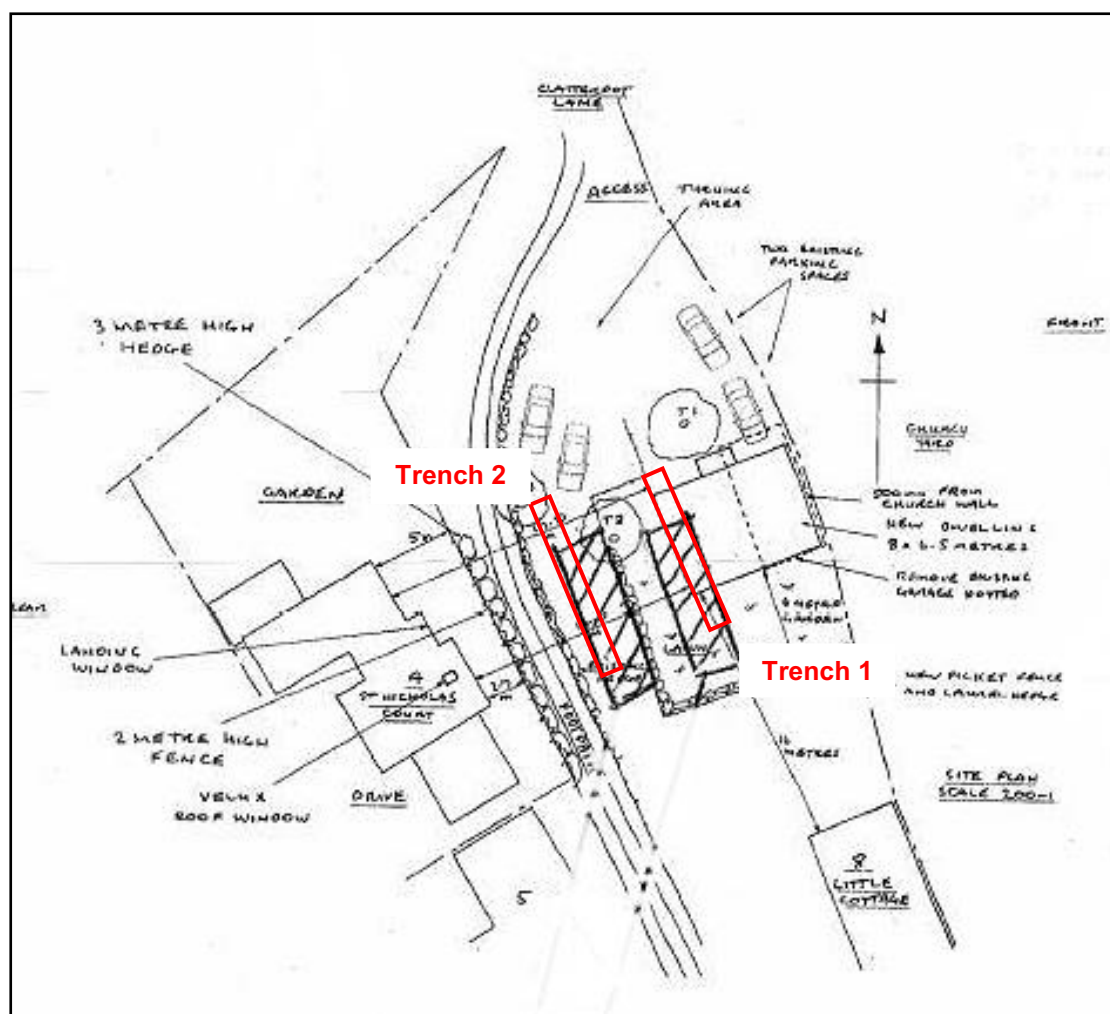


Figure 3: Evaluation trench locations

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Cottesmore and adjacent to St Nicholas Church, which dates to the Norman period (LB ref 186620; HER ref. MLE5130). Also, excavations undertaken to the west of the site uncovered features and finds ranging from the Iron Age through the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods (MLE10034-9) and it seems likely that this activity may extend into the application site. Consequently, there is likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, if present, within the application area, an archaeological evaluation was required by the planning authority following an approved written scheme of investigation (ULAS 2012). Consequently an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in June 2012.

Aims and Methods

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

1. Identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
3. Record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
4. Produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the development. All work was recorded in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS. The University of Leicester's Health and Safety policy was adhered to.

The programme of archaeological evaluation consisted of two trial trenches measuring 12m x 1.3m (c.15.6m²) and 14m x 1.3m (c.18.2m²) respectively, totalling c.33.8m², in order to provide a 4% sample of the footprint of the proposed house and driveway. The provisional trench plan (Figure 3) shows that the proposed locations of the trenches, sited to avoid an existing garage and areas of concrete slab, were subject to slight modification in order to avoid trees and shrubs. A further 5m of trench held in reserve in order to clarify any archaeological deposits which may have been present was not required.

Excavation was undertaken using a Bobcat mechanical excavator (Figure 4) fitted with a 1.3m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.



Figure 4: Machining of Trench 2 in progress; view south-west

Results

Trench 1, located directly west of, and parallel with, a garage on the eastern side of the development area, was aligned broadly north-north-west to south-south-east, and measured 12m long, 1.3m wide and between 0.60m and 0.68m deep (Figure 5). Machine removal of 0.20m-0.32m of turf and dark grey loam topsoil and 0.20m-0.32m of pale grey-brown clay silt subsoil revealed dull orange-brown ironstone natural with pale grey silty clay banding. The trench was devoid of archaeological features or artefacts.



Figure 5: Trench 1 viewed north; 2m scales

Trench 2 was positioned *c.*4m west of Trench 1 close to the western site boundary hedge and on the same north-north-west to south-south-east alignment as its companion (Figure 6, Figure 7). The trench measured 14m in length, 1.3m wide and between 0.50m and 1.0m deep. Topsoil and subsoil were comparable with those observed in Trench 1, and measured 0.25m-0.40m and 0.14m-0.60m deep respectively. The southern end of the trench was occupied by a modern pit containing asbestos roofing material fragments. The ironstone natural was observed to drop in level by around 0.50m at a *c.*45° angle around 1.5m from the north end of the trench (Figure 7). It was unclear as to whether this was a natural fall of slope or a man-made cut, but the overlying subsoil and absence of archaeological finds evidence suggests the former. As with Trench 1, the trench produced no archaeological structural or finds evidence.



Figure 6: Trench 2 viewed north; 2m scales



Figure 7: Trench 2: cut or scarp in natural ironstone; view south-west; 1m scale



Figure 8: General development area during backfilling; view north

Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Little Cottage, Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore, revealed no evidence for archaeological finds or features within the development site.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (XXX), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Rutland County Museum, Oakham.

The archive consists of:

- 2 trench recording sheets
- 17 digital photographs
- 12 monochrome (film) photographs
- A risk assessment form

Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Juliet Burgess Ray. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Bibliography

Clay, P. 2010 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work, Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore, Rutland* ULAS Report 12/158

Oasis Information

Project Name	Clatterpot Lane, Rutland
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF (Section 12)
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination requirement
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 9022 1363
Start/end dates of field work	12th June 2012
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Council
Study Area	

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