

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For land at The Lawn,
College Street, Ullesthorpe,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP50560 87830

Jennifer Browning



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College Street, Ullesthorpe,
Leicestershire NGR SP 5056087830**

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**For:
Mr. and Mrs. Jukes**

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 15th November 2013

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CONTENTS

Summary	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	2
4. Aims and Objectives	3
5. Methodology	5
6. Results.....	5
7. Conclusions.....	6
8. Archive.....	7
9. Publication	7
10. Bibliography	7
11. Acknowledgements.....	7

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location plan- site ringed. Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.....	3
Figure 2: Plan of development area (NTS). Supplied by client.....	4
Figure 3: Plan of development (Allan Joyce Architects). Supplied by client.....	4

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at The Lawn, College Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire NGR SP 50560 87830 during groundworks for a new detached dwelling. The site is located within the medieval village core and therefore had potential to contain buried archaeological remains. Modern disturbance within the subsoil was noted on site, attributed to the removal of trees and ceramic land-drains. Pottery and tile indicated activity in the post-medieval period however the work produced no evidence for medieval archaeology. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A 175 2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by ULAS in November 2013 on land at The Lawn, College Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 50560 87830; Fig. 1). Harborough District Council has granted consent for a new detached dwelling with associated garage, hardstanding and landscaping (PA: 12/00436/FUL), subject to an archaeological condition. The location of the site within the medieval settlement core of the village indicates that buried archaeological remains could be affected by the development. Archaeological attendance (watching brief) was therefore required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, in her capacity as advisor to the planning authority, in order to identify and record any structural or archaeological remains of significance which might exist.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located within the village core of Ullesthorpe (Fig. 1). The plot fronts onto Mill Road, which forms its northern boundary. To the east is a narrow driveway leading to a cottage, while south of the site is a modern house. The Lawn, a cottage on the corner of College Street and Mill Road, is located west of the building plot (Figs 2-3). The site slopes upwards from Mill Road towards the south.

The British Geology Survey indicates that the bedrock geology comprises mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, while the superficial geology consists of Oadby member-Diamicton (British Geological Survey of Britain: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Accessed 05.11.2013.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. The site is located within the historic settlement core of Ullesthorpe, a medieval and post-medieval village (HER ref: **MLE10380**).

The settlement core represents the area within which evidence indicates an enhanced potential for the presence of buried and above ground archaeological remains indicative of the historic settlement and occupation of the village. Previous archaeological work to the immediate south-west of the site recorded evidence of post-medieval occupation, including the foundations of cottages formerly facing onto College Street, a 19th century brick culvert and a drainage pipe (HER ref: MLE10511). The 1st edition OS map dating from the 1880s reveals that the western half of the development site lies within the plot of the village smithy (now The Lawn). The eastern half of the site appears to lie within an area of open ground or gardens to the east of the smithy.



Figure 1: Site Location plan- site ringed. Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work was:

- 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.



Figure 2: Plan of development area (NTS). Supplied by client



Figure 3: Plan of development (Allan Joyce Architects). Supplied by client

5. Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Score 2013) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2012) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008).

The programme of work consisted of the reduction of ground level and the excavation of foundation trenches using a Caterpillar tracked mini-excavator with a 0.6m wide bucket.

6. Results

The former ground level was reduced within the footprint of the house by approximately 0.5-0.7m, deepening to 0.8m at the southern end of the site. Frequent building rubble, including brick fragments, concrete, and stones, were observed within the overburden on the west side of the plot, which also contained fragments of glass and modern china, as well as considerable root disturbance. Towards the south of the plot, topsoil was 0.3m thick, below which there was subsoil, consisting of mid grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and small stones. Ground reduction on the eastern side of the site exposed the natural subsoil, which was bright orange brown clayey sand with frequent gravel (Fig. 4). It was only partially revealed on the western side, where ground reduction was slightly less deep (c. 0.5m). The trenches were excavated to a fairly consistent depth of 0.5m (from the reduced level). On the eastern side of the plot the natural subsoil was fairly undisturbed, with the exception of ceramic land-drains running approximately north-south and also east-west (Figs 4-5).

Significant root disturbance was noted, particularly on the west side of the site, where intrusion into the natural subsoil was noted in several locations. These features were examined and found to contain concentrations of roots and frequent charcoal flecks. It was therefore concluded that they represent the former location of trees on the site and in some cases representing material that became deposited following their removal (Fig. 5). A sherd of Midland Yellow pottery, dating from c.1500-1725 (Deborah Sawday pers. comm) was retrieved from one of these features. Another contained fragments of tile, an example of which was collected for identification; it was identified as earthenware post-medieval flat roof tile (Deborah Sawday pers. comm.).



Figure 4: Trenches on the east side of the site, looking south



Figure 5: 'Rooty' area near the frontage of the site, looking west

7. Conclusions

Despite the location of the site in the medieval settlement core of the village, adjacent to the former smithy, no significant archaeological deposits were identified during the work. Intrusions into the natural subsoil are believed to be associated with deep-rooted trees formerly present on the site. However, post-medieval activity in the area is indicated by finds including a sherd of Midland Yellow pottery and a post-medieval roof tile.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by LCC HNET, with the Accession No. X. A175 2013.

The archive includes: site notes (watching brief sheets); digital photographs; a sherd of pottery and a roof tile fragment.

The report will be 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/>

OASIS table

Project Name	The Lawn, College Street, Ullesthorpe, Leics.
Project Type	Archaeological Attendance (watching brief)
Project Manager	V. Score
Project Supervisor	J. Browning
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Residential garden
Development Type	Single detached dwelling
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Full determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 50560 87830
Start/end dates of field work	04.11.2013 - 05.11.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	c360 square metres

9. Publication

The report will be added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

10. Bibliography

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2012), *Code of Conduct*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (rev. 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Score V. 2013, *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance, inspection and recording at the The Lawn, College Street, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire* ULAS Report

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was funded by and was carried out by Jennifer Browning for ULAS. The finds were identified by Deborah Sawday Vicki Score managed the project. I would like to thank the contractors on site, Andy Nourish Plant Hire, for their help and co-operation during the work.

Jennifer Browning 06.11.2013

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