



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
2 Back Lane, Long Clawson,
Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 7255 2730**

Andrew Hyam



ULAS Report No. 2011-171
©2011

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
2 Back Lane, Long Clawson,
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 7255 2730

A R Hyam

For: Mr Bob Sourbutts

Approved by

Signed:



Date: 4 November 2011

Name: R J Buckley

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd, Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2011-171
©2011
Accession Number: XA.159.2011

CONTENTS

Summary	2
Introduction.....	2
Background	2
Objectives	7
Methodology	7
Results.....	8
Trench 1	8
Trench 2	11
Discussion	14
Archive.....	14
Publication	14
Acknowledgements.....	14
Bibliography	14
Appendix 1. OASIS Information	15
Appendix 2. Trench Details	15
Appendix 3. Digital photographs.....	16

FIGURES

Figure 1. Long Clawson village location.....	3
Figure 2. Site location	4
Figure 3. Development site looking north-east.....	4
Figure 4. Front garden.....	5
Figure 5. Development site	5
Figure 6. Development site viewed from Back Lane	6
Figure 7. Proposed development and trench location.....	6
Figure 8. Actual trench locations.	8
Figure 9. Trench 1	9
Figure 10. Trench 1	10
Figure 11. Trench 2. N-S arm	12
Figure 12. Trench 2. E-W arm.....	13

An Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. NGR: SK 7255 27307089

Andrew Hyam

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. The work took place on the 1st of November 2011 in advance of the demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a new house on a similar footprint. The development site lies within the core of the medieval and post-medieval village and records show that a timber cruck-framed cottage was located to the east of the plot, hence the requirement for archaeological work. One 11m long trench was excavated to the west of the bungalow and a second 19.6m long L-shaped trench was excavated to the east.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the evaluation.

The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number XA.159.2011

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 report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. Under planning application number 11/00486/FUL it is proposed to demolish the existing 1960s or early 1970s bungalow and replace it with a more modern building but one which covers a similar footprint. Along with the provision of new services there will be additional hard and soft landscaping to either side (east and west) of the property. 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 trial trench evaluation work to take place due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. Dependent upon the outcome of the trial trenching further archaeological work may be required. The work has been commissioned by Mr Bob Sourbutts via 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 2 Back Lane, being situated towards the centre on its southern side (Fig. 2). The church and manor house are located nearly 0.5km to the west of the site which has a number of 18th and 19th century buildings surrounding it. The ULAS written scheme of investigation noted 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, dating from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. A map of *c.*1779 depicts the assessment area at this time as part of the land attached to Corner Cottage, a timber cruck-framed building dating to the late medieval period, which is located immediately to the east of the site. It was therefore considered that there would be a good potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the assessment area.

The development site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 7255 2730 at a height of approximately 70m OD. The 1884 first edition Ordnance Survey map of the site shows it as an open space with a similar boundary to that seen today. This remains unchanged until the 1973 edition which shows the bungalow in its present plan form, with the exception of a small conservatory to the north. Although partially modernised with new windows the bungalow is typical of a late 1960s house. The bungalow and western half of the site are generally level but the ground drops away to the east creating a sloping garden (Figs 3, 4 and 5). Back Lane forms a shallow hollow way along the site's south-eastern boundary (Fig. 6). A tarmac driveway enters the site in the south-west corner and leads to a brick-built garage to the north and a grassed area with apple trees to the south. A small lawn is located between the bungalow and Back Lane which then leads to the east part of the garden which has a range of lawns, borders, concrete paths and small trees. The garage and brick outhouse will be demolished along with the existing paths which appear to be contemporary with the bungalow (Fig. 7).

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.

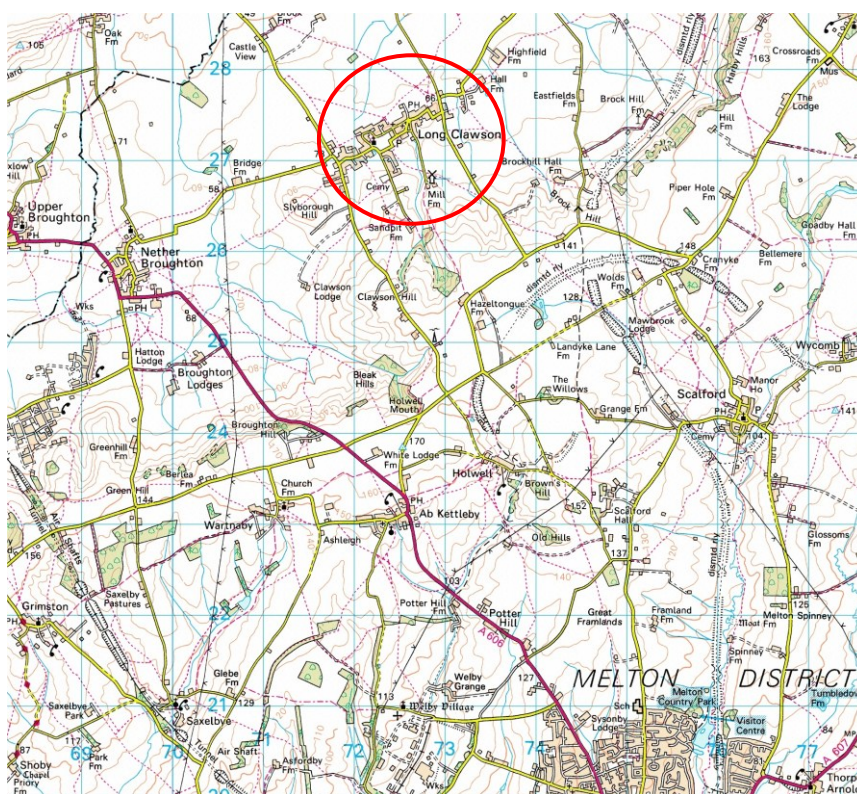


Figure 1. Long Clawson village location.
1km grid. North to top of map

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 100029495



Figure 2. Site location

1km grid. North to top of map

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1996. Licence Number AL 100029495



Figure 3. Development site looking north-east



Figure 4. Front garden
Looking east



Figure 5. Development site

Looking north-west



Figure 6. Development site viewed from Back Lane
Looking north-east

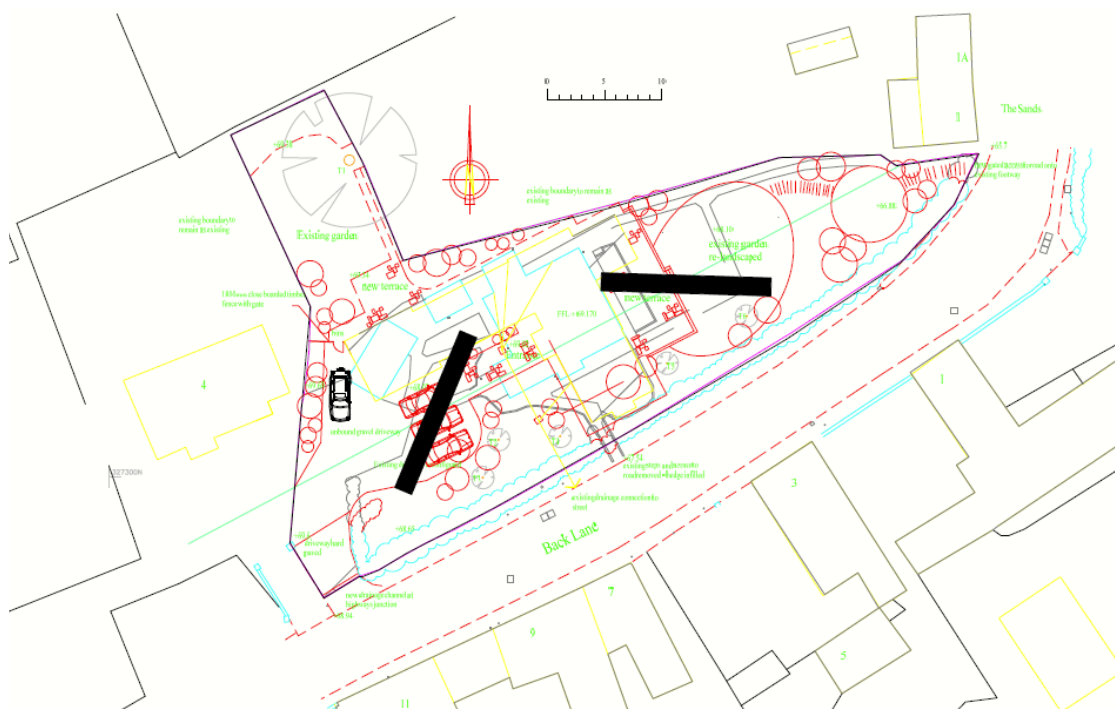


Figure 7. Proposed development and trench location

Plan supplied by developer. Existing buildings shown in blue, proposed buildings and services in yellow. Trenches shown in solid black are the proposed ones see Figure 8 for actual locations.

The proposed planning application is to demolish the existing bungalow, garage and small outhouse. These will be replaced by a new one and a half storey house with a garage. Services will be connected but will probably follow similar paths to those existing. The surrounding garden will be landscaped although it is not yet known what form this will take

Objectives

The main objectives of the trial trenching 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the trench 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 proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that can demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

The WSI specified two 15m long trenches as shown in Figure 3. However the presence of a number of apple trees which the owner wished to incorporate into the new garden meant that the trench layout had to be modified to avoid damage to these and to existing services. An 11m long trench was placed to the west of the bungalow following a north to south alignment and an L-shaped trench with a total length of 19.6m was placed on the east side of the bungalow (Fig 8).

A tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the evaluation trenches. Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or to undisturbed natural. The spoil was scanned for finds and other artefacts. A number of concrete paths laid on a shallow bed of hardcore were also cut through during the evaluation.

The trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any deposits located would be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Sections of any excavated archaeological features would be drawn at an appropriate scale. The trenches were recorded on standard ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheets noting soil depths and descriptions. One longitudinal face and the base of each trench was recorded in this way. Any drawn sections of archaeological features would

be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum. Trench locations were recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All deposits were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. The recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at *2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire*. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

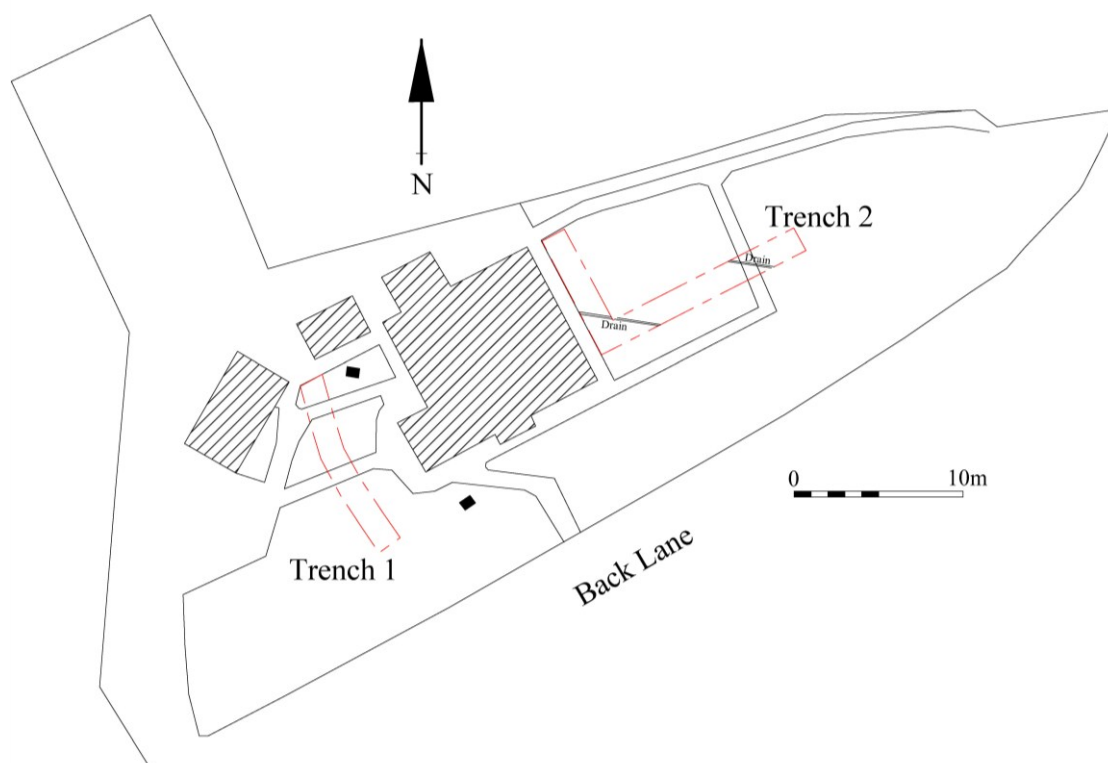


Figure 8. Actual trench locations.

Results

Trench 1

As noted above, the initial specified location of the first trench was for it to follow a north-east to south-west alignment which would set it at an angle to the bungalow. Because of the location of a number of apple trees and the potential for damaging a sewer pipe near to the front of the property a shortened trench with a slight curve was excavated on a near north to south alignment.

The topsoil was a fine garden soil consisting of a dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt with an average depth of 0.30m. This layer was quite disturbed with roots and contained a number of brick fragments which matched the bricks used in the bungalow. There was also a considerable quantity of coal ash and cinders. Beneath this was a thin layer of orange grey clayish sand and silt subsoil with a depth between 0.09m and 0.10m. Removal of the subsoil revealed a natural substratum of mid orange grey sandy clay with mottled patches of brighter orange sand. Two wooden posts seen

from just below ground level extended into the natural but were of recent date. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench.



Figure 9. Trench 1
Looking south. 1.5m scale



Figure 10. Trench 1
Looking north. 1.5m scale

Trench 2

The specified trench, to the west of the bungalow, was intended to run from west to east at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the building. Because of the location of more apple trees and to maintain a total trench length of 30m an L-shaped trench was excavated (Figs. 11 and 12). This was laid out to initially run parallel to the bungalow before turning eastwards to run down the slope of the garden.

As in Trench 1 the topsoil, or garden soil, consisted of a dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt but with a depth varying between 0.21m and 0.30m. The same orange grey clayish sand and silt was observed although there were a number of ironstone fragments scattered throughout this layer which had a depth varying between 0.07m and 0.12m. The natural was the same as in Trench 1 although there were more patches of orange grey clay.

The cut for a ceramic drain was seen running from the north-west to the south-east across the south-west corner of the trench. Another ceramic drain was seen on a parallel alignment to this approximately 6m further east (Fig. 8). No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench.



Figure 11. Trench 2. N-S arm
Looking south. 1.5m scales



Figure 12. Trench 2. E-W arm
Looking west. 1.5m scale

Discussion

Despite the relatively high potential, no archaeological features or deposits were found during the course of the evaluation. The ground around the bungalow appears to have undergone a minimal level of disturbance despite the construction of paths and services. The drains seen in Trench 2 appear to act as land drains when the plot was unoccupied rather than serving the bungalow. It is possible that these were put in to keep the cottage to the east, at the foot of the slope, as dry as possible rather than letting water drain straight down the slope towards it.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

2 pro-forma trench recording forms,

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

1 contact sheet of 13 35mm black and white photographs,

35mm black and white negatives,

1 contact sheet of 33 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. *2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire*. ULAS

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Appendix 1. OASIS Information

Project Name	2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation trenching
Project Manager	R Buckley
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	No previous work.
Current Land Use	Residential bungalow
Development Type	Redevelopment
Reason for Investigation	Archaeological potential
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 7255 2730
Start/end dates of field work	1.11.2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	Approx 1250m ²

Appendix 2. Trench Details

Trench No.	Width	Length	Trench depth	Topsoil depth	Subsoil depth	Natural
1	1.5m	11m	0.40m-0.44m	0.28m-0.31m	0.09m-0.10m	Mid orange grey sandy clay with mottles of orange sand
2 N-S arm	1.5m	7.6m	0.34m-0.37m	0.21m-0.26m	0.08m-0.09m	As Trench 1 but more areas of orange grey clay
2 E-W arm	1.5m	12m	0.33m-0.44m	0.24m-0.30m	0.07m-0.12m	As above

Appendix 3. Digital photographs



XA159 2011 (1).jpg



XA159 2011 (2).jpg



XA159 2011 (3).jpg



XA159 2011 (4).jpg



XA159 2011 (5).jpg



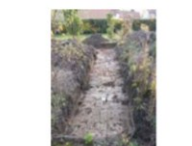
XA159 2011 (6).jpg



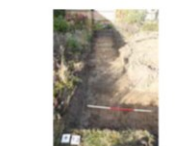
XA159 2011 (7).jpg



XA159 2011 (8).jpg



XA159 2011 (9).jpg



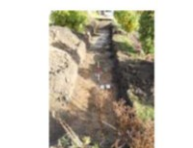
XA159 2011 (10).jpg



XA159 2011 (11).jpg



XA159 2011 (12).jpg



XA159 2011 (13).jpg



XA159 2011 (14).jpg



XA159 2011 (15).jpg



XA159 2011 (16).jpg



XA159 2011 (17).jpg



XA159 2011 (18).jpg



XA159 2011 (19).jpg



XA159 2011 (20).jpg



XA159 2011 (21).jpg



XA159 2011 (22).jpg



XA159 2011 (23).jpg



XA159 2011 (24).jpg



XA159 2011 (25).jpg



XA159 2011 (26).jpg



XA159 2011 (27).jpg



XA159 2011 (28).jpg

ULAS 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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

