



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**A Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation on
Land Adjacent to Church Farm House,
Church Lane, Cadeby,
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 4253 0234

Andrew Hyam



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Land Adjacent to Church Farm House,
Church Lane, Cadeby,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 4253 0234

A. R. Hyam

For: M & L Builders (Atherstone) Ltd

Checked by: Jennifer Browning

Signed:



Date: 10th June 2013.....

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Summary

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land adjacent to Church Farm House, Church Lane, Cadeby, Leicestershire. The work took place on the 13th of May 2013 in advance of the construction of three new dwellings and garages. The site lies within the medieval settlement core of the small village and therefore had the potential to contain archaeological deposits. The ground works comprised a topsoil strip and excavation of trenches under archaeological supervision.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the strip, plan and sample excavation work.

The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A61.2013

Introduction

In accordance with NPPF (section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) this document forms the report for a Strip, Plan and Sample excavation on land adjacent to Church Farm House, Church Lane, Cadeby, Leicestershire. Under planning application number 12/01070/FUL three new dwellings and garages will be constructed.

When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, recommended the requirement for an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation to take place due to the potential for exposing archaeological features and deposits and the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned by M & L Builders (Atherstone) Ltd and followed that specified in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief on land adjacent to Church Farm, Church Lane, Cadeby, Leicestershire* (ULAS 02.05.2013 – hereinafter the WSI).

Background

The village of Cadeby lies approximately 18km to the west of Leicester and 2km to the south-east of Market Bosworth (Fig. 1). The proposed development plot is on the west side of Church Lane opposite the parish church of All Saints and is centred on National Grid Reference SK 4253 0234 (Fig. 2). Prior to the start of the work the plot was surrounded by trees and assorted hedges with grass covering most of the site. The underlying bedrock comprises mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member Formation, formed in the Triassic period *c.*227-242 million years ago overlain by superficial glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Mid Pleistocene (British Geological Survey of Britain).

Three 20m trial evaluation trenches excavated on the site in 2009 revealed several archaeological features of uncertain date (Kipling 2009). However, the recovery of medieval pottery from subsoil overlying a possible quarry feature and ditch or gully in Trench 3, coupled with the similarity of their fills to the overlying material suggested that these features could be of medieval date. The 2009 trenches were placed to cover the footprints of an earlier proposed development, however since that time the plans have been changed and most of the trenches lay outside the footprint of the revised development (Fig. 3). Some levelling and landscaping of the site appears to have taken place since the time of the evaluation and much of the southern side of the site has been badly disturbed by heavy machinery tracking along the site.

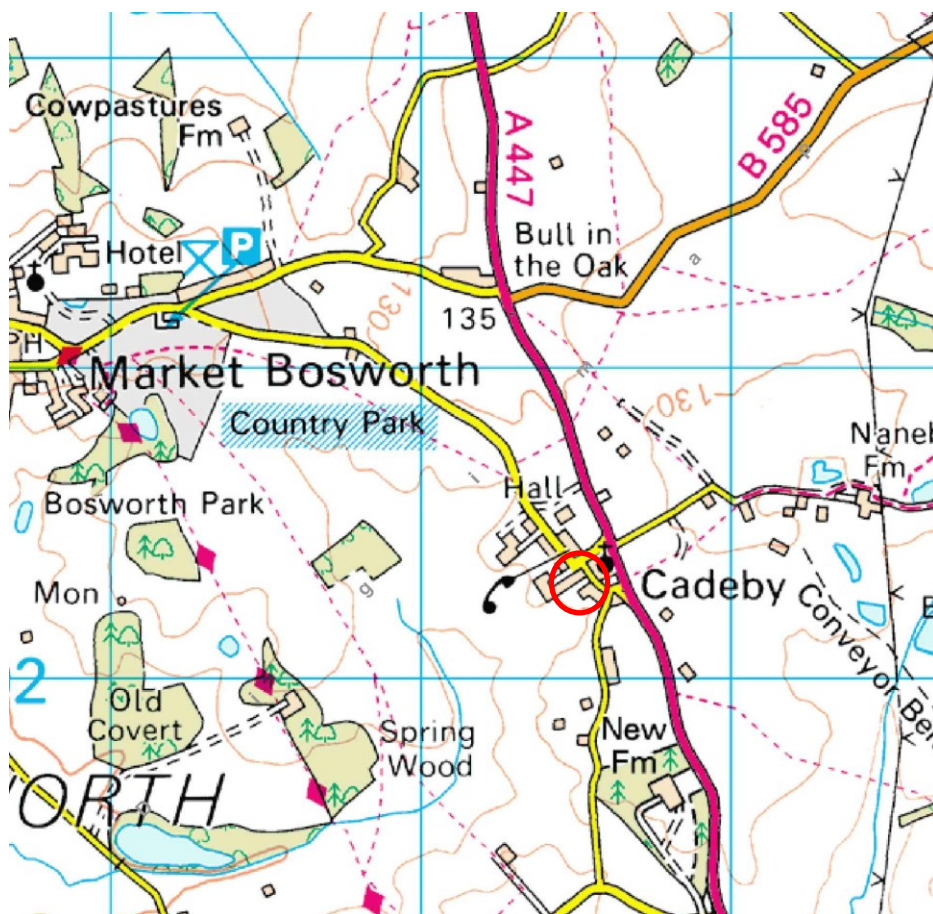


Figure 1 Cadeby location

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Figure 2 Site location
Viewed from Church Lane. Looking south-west

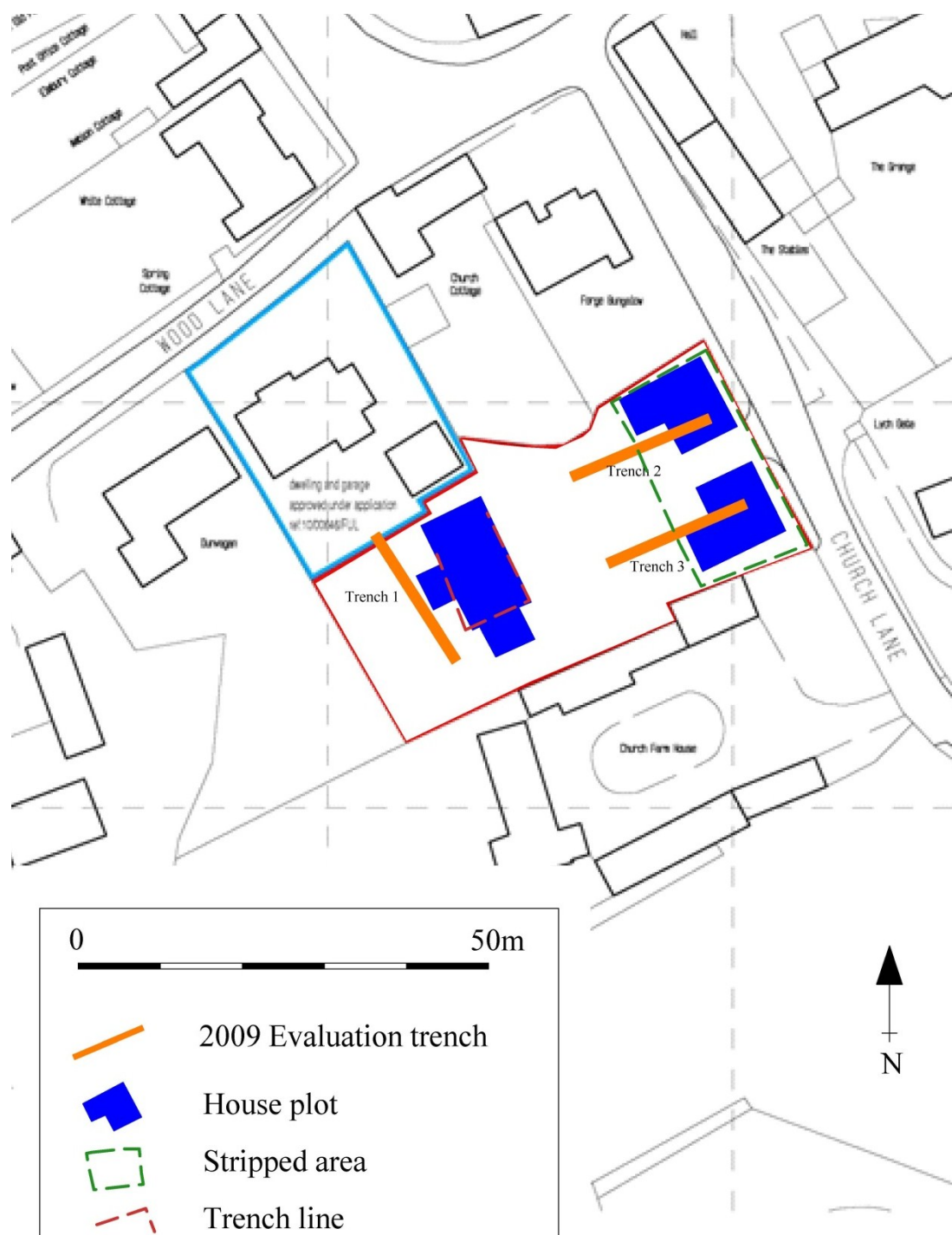


Figure 3 Site location and evaluation trenches
Modified from Haywards Architects plan

Objectives

In addition to the research aims specified in the ULAS WSI the general objectives were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or earlier building remains.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

A tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to reduce the ground across the entire frontage of the plot and approximately 3m beyond the western extremities of the two easternmost houses. The ground level was reduced to the builder's foundation level which also coincided with the level of the natural substratum. Because of the presence of a large spoil heap on the site of the rear house, and the depth of overburden, it was decided to dig evaluation trenches around the perimeter of the proposed house plot. All of this work was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision. All spoil was scanned for finds and other artefacts.

The open reduced areas and trenches were examined by hand cleaning (where necessary) and any deposits located would be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Results were recorded onto standard ULAS pro-forma watching brief recording sheets, noting soil depths and descriptions. Recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS WSI and included notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (2008).

Results

As noted in the methodology, the entire area around the two houses on the eastern side of the plot, fronting onto Church Lane, was stripped down to formation level. Approximately 0.1m of disturbed dark brown silty topsoil mixed with modern mill-waste was removed to reveal a layer of slightly less disturbed dark orange brown silty sand subsoil with a depth of between 0.15m and 0.3m. Beneath the subsoil was the undisturbed natural substratum of dark orange brown sand and sandy gravel (Figs. 4 and 5). The whole width of the plot was stripped from the pavement to approximately 3m beyond the western limits of the proposed houses. Both Trenches 2 and 3 from the 2009 evaluation were identified although the features seen in Trench 3 were further west than the current footprint strip. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during this area strip which covered approximately 350m².

On the location of the rear, westernmost, house plot a trial evaluation slot indicated that the natural substratum was at least 0.8m below current ground level. As the intended site reduction was only going to be 0.5m it was decided to run an evaluation trench around the wall lines of the proposed house (Fig. 6). This revealed a similar topsoil and subsoil to that seen in the earlier footprint strip. The dry and crumbly topsoil had an approximate depth of between 0.3 and 0.4m and was above between 0.4m and 0.5m of subsoil. The natural substratum again consisted of dark orange brown sand and sandy gravel. No features or deposits were observed within this area. The 2009 evaluation Trench 1 was located approximately 4m to the west of the proposed house.



Figure 4 Stripped footprint of south-eastern house
Looking south-east



Figure 5 Stripped frontage
Looking south-west



Figure 6 Trial trenching around south-west house
Working photograph of incomplete trench

Discussion

Despite the results of the 2009 evaluation which identified a small number of undated, but possibly medieval, features, none were identified during this stage of the development. All of the features located in the 2009 trenches were some distance away from the proposed house locations which explains why these were not seen again. Most of the upper layers of topsoil and some of the subsoil have been disturbed but the depth of soil is such that, with the exception of the southern boundary, most of the natural substratum has been left intact. Because most of the service trenches will run to the west towards Church Lane any excavation will take place in undisturbed natural substratum which has already been exposed during this work. It is therefore not anticipated that the groundworks will affect any potential archaeological deposits in this area.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro forma recording form,

1 record sheet combined for both digital and 35mm black and white photographs,

1 contact sheet of 14 digital photographs,

1 contact sheet for 4 35mm black and white photographs plus negatives,

1 cd of digital photographs.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Kipling, R. 2009 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Church Lane, Cadeby, Leicestershire (NGR SK 424 023)* ULAS Report 2009-107

Written Scheme of Investigation for a *Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief on land adjacent to Church Farm House, Church Lane, Cadeby, Leicestershire*. 02.05.2013. ULAS

Appendix 1 OASIS Information

Project Name	Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief on land adjacent to Church Farm House, Church Lane, Cadeby
Project Type	Strip, Plan and Sample Excavation and Watching Brief
Project Manager	J Browning
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	Evaluation in 2009
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SK 4253 0234
Start/end dates of field work	13.05.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	2.2ha

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