



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
on Land at Welford Road,  
Kilby, Leicestershire  
(SP 61771 94472)**




Roger Kipling

ULAS Report No 2014-028  
©2014

**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at Welford Road,  
Kilby, Leicestershire  
(SP 61771 94472)**

**Roger Kipling**

**For: Westerleigh Group**

Approved by:	
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
<b>Name:</b>	Vicki Score

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

**ULAS Report Number 2014-028**  
©2014

## CONTENTS

Summary .....	4
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology .....	5
3. Archaeological and Historical Background .....	5
4. Aims and Objectives .....	6
5. Methodology .....	6
Archaeological Trial Trenches .....	6
6. Results .....	8
Trench 1 .....	8
7. Archive and Publications .....	11
8. Publication .....	11
9. Acknowledgements .....	11
10. Bibliography .....	12
11. Oasis Information .....	12

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000) .....	5
Figure 2: Trench location plan overlain on the development plan (provided by client) .....	7
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan (west end) and ditch [02] section .....	8
Figure 4: Trench 1; ditch [02] view northwest (1m scale) .....	9
Figure 5: Trench 2; general view northwest (1m scale) .....	10
Figure 6: Trench 4: view northwest; 1m scale .....	10
Figure 7: Trench 8: view north; 1m scale .....	11

**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at Welford Road,  
Kilby, Leicestershire  
(SP 61771 94472)**

Roger Kipling

**Summary**

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken during February 2014 at Welford Road, Kilby, Leicestershire, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the Westerleigh Group. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a planning application for a crematorium development in order to assess the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains as may have been present.*

*The archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Kilby, produced few indications of archaeology, restricted to a small group of plough-truncated undated features at the eastern end of the evaluation area.*

*The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A16.2014.*

**1. Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off the Welford Road, south of Kilby, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). The Historic Environment Record indicates that the surrounding landscape has produced finds belonging to a variety of periods. As no archaeological work has been undertaken in the area the site was of largely unknown archaeological potential.

In consequence the planning authority recommended the need for a programme of evaluation trenching. The investigation was required in order to provide an adequate sample of the development area and to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals, consisting of the construction of buildings, access routes and ponds. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2014).

The fieldwork specified was intended to provide further indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains might be assessed.

## 2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is located off the Welford Road, south of the village of Kilby, within the district of Blaby (Fig. 1) and consists of agricultural land. The British Geological Survey notes that the Bedrock consists of Blue Lias formation mudstone with superficial geology comprising Mid Pleistocene - Diamicton Till ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)). There is a band of alluvium to the east associated with a stream. The site lies at a height of c.95m O.D. on relatively flat land.

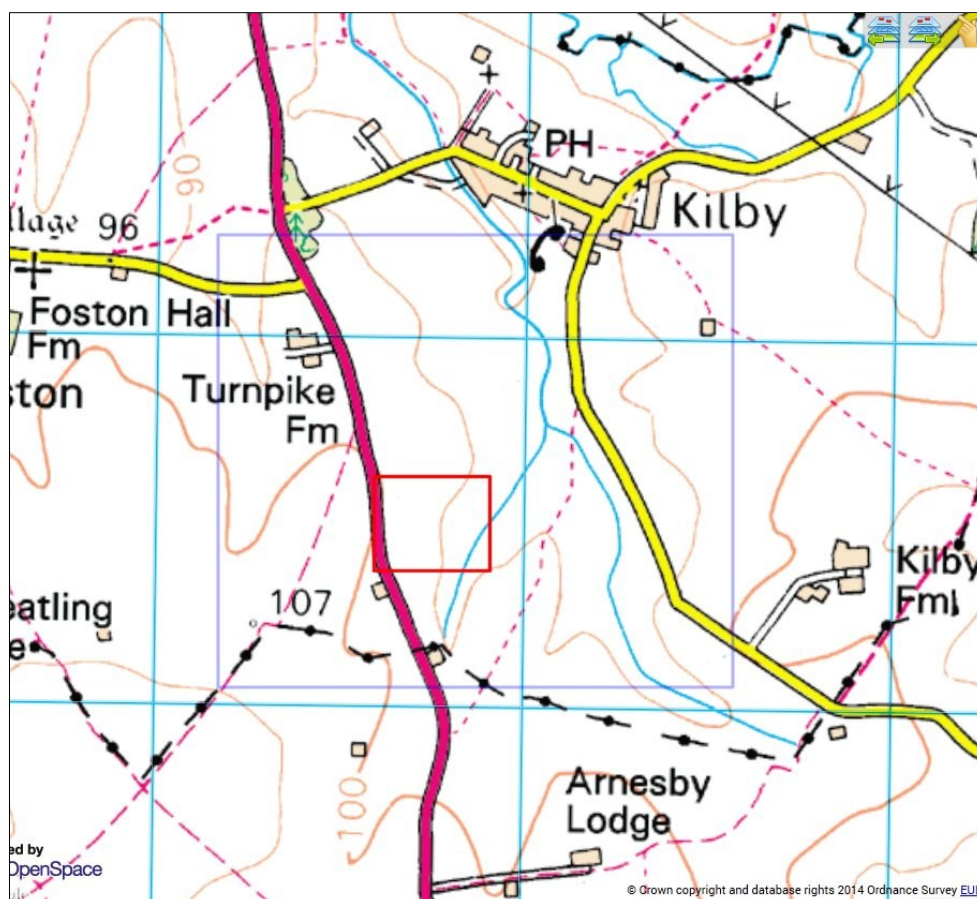


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

*Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495*

## 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Historic Environment Record indicates that the surrounding landscape has produced finds belonging to a variety of periods. A Roman coin hoard was recorded on the opposite side of the road south of Turnpike Farm (MLE19733) and Kilby is a medieval village mentioned in Domesday. Otherwise the site was of largely unknown potential as there hasn't been much previous archaeological work close by.

#### 4. Aims and Objectives

The archaeological evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

*The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

- The nearby coin hoard is suggestive of Roman activity in the area. The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

*Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)*

- The area lies close to the medieval village core and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al 2012, 94; Lewis 2006).

The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

Specific evaluation aims were to:-

- Seek to establish the nature of the geophysical anomalies and to determine if they are of archaeological significance

The evaluation was undertaken in order to enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and, if appropriate, a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

#### 5. Methodology

##### *Archaeological Trial Trenches*

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained and the required archive deposition forms completed. An OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms.

Following recommendations from the Planning Archaeologist, a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken. A 2% sample of the area of development was excavated, comprising eight trenches measuring between 20m-30m x 2.10m wide.

Trench locations were in accordance with plans set out in the brief, targeting the proposed footprint of the building, access roads and pond (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Trench location plan overlain on the development plan (provided by client)

Topsoil and overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (c.2.1m wide), under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits.

Upon completion of the evaluation trenching, the excavated trenches were backfilled and loosely compacted.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). 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) was also adhered to.

## 6. Results

Fieldwork was carried out in February 2014 and involved the machine excavation of eight trial trenches in order to provide the 2% sample of the development area stipulated in the brief. A summary of the trenches is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of the trenches

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	NW-SE	34 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.17-0.22m, subsoil 0.40-0.75m. Ditch [02]	0.75-0.93
2	NW-SE	25 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.15-0.27m, subsoil 0.18-0.32m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.43-0.58
3	NE-SW	27 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.15-0.30m, subsoil 0.18-0.49m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.40-0.59
4	NW-SE	30 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.15-0.30m, subsoil 0.10-0.25m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.25-0.44
5	NE-SW	22 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.17-0.25m, subsoil 0.12-0.33m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.30-0.56
6	SW-NE	22 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.20-0.36m, subsoil not present. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.22-0.36
7	NW-SE	17 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.17-0.22m, subsoil 0.08-0.27m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.28-0.49
8	E-W	23 x 2.10	Topsoil 0.18-0.28. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.38-0.50

### Trench 1

(Figures 3 & 4)

Trench 1 was located at the north-east corner of the field and positioned in order to target the site of a proposed pond. It was between 0.75m-0.93m deep and was the only one of the eight evaluation trenches found to contain archaeology.

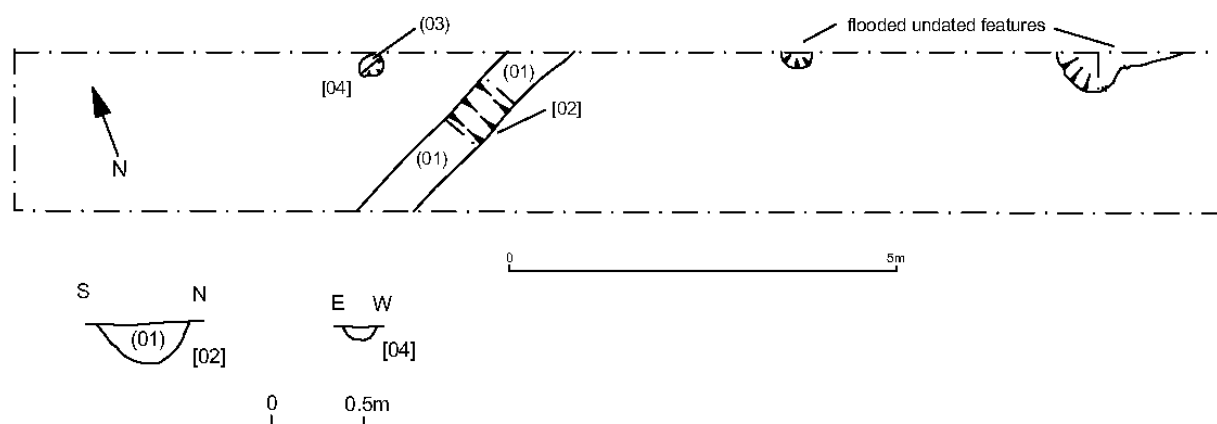


Figure 3: Trench 1 plan (west end) and ditch [02] section



Machine removal of 0.17m-0.22m of mid grey clay loam plough soil and 0.40m-0.75m of mid grey clay silt subsoil revealed a mid-orange-brown natural clay.

A single truncated ditch [02] measuring 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with 30° sides to a rounded base, crossed the trench on a north-south alignment c.5m from the western end of the trench. Its single fill (01), a mid-light grey plastic clay silt fill, produced no finds. A small undated post hole [04] measuring 0.20m diameter and 0.15m deep with 30° sides was located alongside the ditch. The mid-grey sandy clay silt fill (03) produced no dating evidence. Two further small, shallow amorphous features to the east produced no finds and their shallow undulating nature is suggestive of animal activity.



Figure 4: Trench 1; ditch [02] view northwest (1m scale)

This was the deepest of the trenches. It lies close to the stream that runs to the east of the area and the mid-grey silt deposit is likely to represent overbank flood deposits.

The remainder of the trenches were archaeologically blank, with a common sequence of 0.15-0.30m of plough soil and 0.10m-0.40m of subsoil over patchy orange-brown and bluish-brown sandy natural clay (see Figures 5 & 6 as examples).

The archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Kilby, produced few indications of archaeology, restricted to a small group of undated features at the eastern end of the evaluation area. These shallow deposits appear truncated suggesting that the overlying alluvial deposits could be relatively recent.



Figure 5: Trench 2; general view northwest (1m scale)



Figure 6: Trench 4: view northwest; 1m scale



Figure 7: Trench 8: view north; 1m scale

## 7. Archive and Publications

The site archive, consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Reference Number X.A16.2014.

The archive consists of:

- 8 trench recording sheets
- Photographic record index
- 10 digital photographs
- 1 x A1 drawing sheet
- A risk assessment form

## 8. Publication

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

## 9. Acknowledgements

Jon Coward and Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of the Westerleigh Group. The project was managed by Vicki Score.

## 10. Bibliography

- Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)
- Cooper, N.J., (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13.
- IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- ULAS, 2014, *WSI for archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Kilby, Leicestershire*.

## 11. Oasis Information

Project Name	Land at Welford Road, Kilby Leicestershire
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Development
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Funerary
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SP 61771 94472
Start/end dates of field work	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	504sq.m.

Roger Kipling  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
Tel:0116 252 2836  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [rwk1@le.ac.uk](mailto:rwk1@le.ac.uk)

© ULAS 07/02/2014

## 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](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

