

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 12 Stuart Street, Kibworth Beauchamp,
Leicestershire

NGR SP 68424 93796



Adam Clapton

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 12 Stuart Street

Kibworth Beauchamp

Leicestershire

NGR: SP 68424 93796

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For: Les Buzzard

Checked by

Signed: 

Date: 9th January 2015

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 12 Stuart Street, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire

Summary

An watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 12 Stuart Street, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Les Buzzard in advance of the proposed development of the site for a single storey dwelling.

The site lies within the eastern part of the historic settlement core of Kibworth Beauchamp and currently forms a turfed back garden area for 12 Stuart Street, with adjoining properties to the north and south.

Several foundation trenches were excavated during the course of the archaeological investigation. No archaeological remains were identified and no artefacts recovered from the trenches.

The fieldwork was carried out by Adam Clapton. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A4.2015

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Les Buzzard to carry out an archaeological inspection (watching brief) at 12 Stuart Street, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

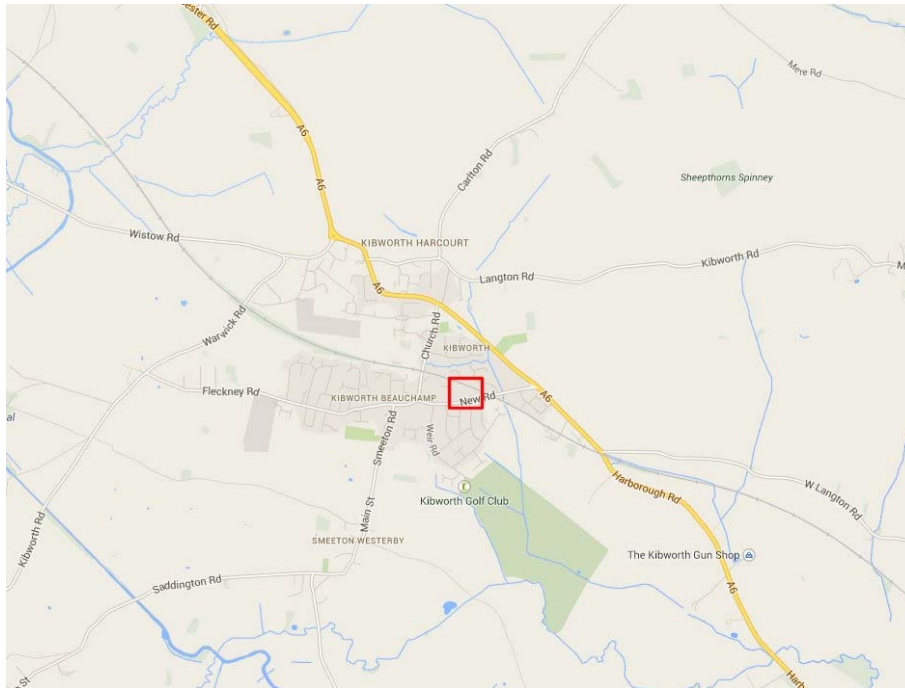
The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Harborough Borough Council, for a new single story dwelling at the site. The land is currently a back garden area for 12 Stuart Street.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist as archaeological advisor to the planning authority requested archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (watching brief) to identify and record any structural or archaeological remains of significance.

Site Location, Geography and Topography

The site lies within the village of Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire (Figs 1-2) at approximately 106m aOD with a slight slope from west to east. The site is bounded by dwellings to the north, south and west with the adjoining property (12 Stuart Street) to the east.

The underlying bedrock consists of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone (British Geological Survey of Britain).



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 situated in the eastern part of the historic settlement core of Kibworth Beauchamp (HER Ref: MLE 9147). To the south-east of the site at Weir Road estate, evidence of Roman activity was observed during development works; two ditches were recorded and a large scatter of Roman pottery was retrieved (MLE 1750). Eighteen metres to the south of the development site, an undated ditch was recorded during archaeological attendance at The Bank (MLE 8375). The development site appears undeveloped on 19th century and modern mapping of Kibworth Beauchamp, therefore any archaeological remains present are likely to have remained undisturbed for 120 years.

Groundworks associated with the proposed development are likely to disturb any archaeological remains that may be present, consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were as follows:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2012) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The proposed new development will involve the construction of a single storey dwelling in the rear garden at 12 Stuart Street. The archaeological work focused on the excavation of the foundation trenches of the proposed dwelling (Fig. 2).

The watching brief involved the control and supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. A tracked digger with a 600mm toothed bucket was used to excavate the foundation trenches under continuous archaeological supervision..

Results

Prior to arrival the majority of topsoil (up to 0.25m) had been removed in order to level the area for development. The topsoil appeared dark black brown in colour, consisting of sandy loam, with very few inclusions present. No features were visible in the stripped area.

The trenches were excavated along internal and external wall lines (Fig 3). The foundation trenches were 0.6m wide and were excavated to a depth of 1.3m (Figs 4-5). The topsoil across the area varied in depth between 0.3m and 0.65m with greater depths of topsoil present on the northern side of the site, immediately adjacent to the existing bungalow. The subsoil was light yellow-brown in colour, consisting of a silty-sand with some small gravel inclusions present. The depth of the subsoil also varied across the site, from 0.2m on the southern side of the site to 0.5m in the northernmost foundation trench. The natural substratum comprised yellow-brown sand with patches of blue grey clay and was reached at depths varying from 0.70m at the southern side of the site, to 1.4m at the northernmost end of site.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the investigation.



Figure 3: Investigation area looking west



Figure 4: Foundation trench looking east



Figure 5: Foundation trench looking south

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological features or deposits none were observed during the course of this watching brief. The stratigraphy comprise dark brown topsoil of varying depths suggesting that perhaps the northern area had been previously built up. This over lay yellow-brown silty sand subsoil. Natural clay substrata was identified at between 0.7 – 1.4m deep.

Archive

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 unbound copy of this report
- 1 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 set of digital photographs

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A4.2015.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

Bibliography

ULAS, 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work: inspection and recording (watching brief)

CifA 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

CifA 2012 *Code of Conduct*

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OASIS data entry

Project Name	12 Stuart Street
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Adam Clapton
Previous/Future work	None/ not known
Current Land Use	Residential Garden
Development Type	Single Storey Dwelling
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Approved
Site Co ordinates	SP 68424 93796)
Start/end dates of field work	05-01-2015
Archive Recipient	Leicester County Council Museums
Study Area	0.026 hectares

Contact Details

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