



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services



An Archaeological Watching Brief at 20 King Edward's Way, Edith Weston, Rutland

NGR: SK 92721 05252

Rebecca L. Hearne

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 20 King Edward's Way,

Edith Weston, Rutland

NGR: SK 92721 05252

Rebecca L. Hearne

For: Mr & Mrs Watterson

Planning Ref: APP/2011/0312/PG

Planning Application Authority: Rutland County Council

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 26.01.2015

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An Archaeological Watching Brief with control and supervision at 20 King Edward's Way, Edith Weston, Rutland.

Rebecca L. Hearne

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 20 King Edward's Way, Edith Weston, Rutland by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 15th December 2014 and 20th January 2015. Work was undertaken on behalf of Mr Mike Watterson during ground works in advance of the erection of an extension to the existing property. A shovel-excavated foundation strip, soakaway trenches and other groundworks were monitored but no archaeological features were observed and the result of the investigation proved negative. The archive will be held by Rutland County Council, subject to their confirmation, under the accession number OAKRM.2014.68.

1. Introduction

During December 2014 and January 2015 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 20 King Edward's Way, Edith Weston, Rutland. The work was undertaken on behalf of the property owner and developer Mr Mike Watterson during ground works in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing property. Planning permission was granted by Rutland County Council (Planning REF: APP/2011/0312/PG) for the demolition of a pre-existing utility room and subsequent construction of a new two-storey extension comprising a games room, living room and master en-suite bedroom, subject to an archaeological condition. Although the existing dwelling is believed to have been built in the 1960s its position within the medieval settlement core of Edith Weston, and the presence of medieval archaeological deposits in its vicinity (Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record; HER), indicate high potential for below-ground archaeological remains within the extension footprint.

Archaeological attendance was required by the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council in his capacity as advisor to the planning authority in order to identify and record any structural or archaeological remains of significance which might exist. This report presents the final results of the archaeological investigation.

2. Site Location, Geology and Topography

The village of Edith Weston lies approximately 9 km south-east of Oakham, adjacent to the southern shore of Rutland Water. The property, which dates from 1974-5, fronts onto King Edward's Way to the east, opposite Postbox Cottage. The monitored area occupies a square to the south-west of the existing property.

British Geological Survey data indicates that the bedrock geology comprises Lower Lincolnshire Limestone. This underlies superficial poorly-sorted glacial till (BGS).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

King Edward's Way is situated within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Edith Weston (HER ref: **MLE9650**), directly to the west of medieval village earthworks south

of the church (**MLE5145**) and the medieval stone stump of the village cross (**MLE5147**) (Figure 1), and is flanked by Grade II listed 18th century cottages to the north and south (**MLE1889** and **MLE1888** respectively). Consequently, there is the likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development (Figures 2-3).

It is believed to take its name from Edith, Queen of Edward the Confessor, and dates back to the 12th century. The Church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade I listed building, also dates back to the 12th century with the tower being added around 200 years later

Prior to the construction of Rutland Water, the parish formed a long narrow strip of undulating land extending to the River Gwash and the river formed the boundary between Edith Weston and Hambleton. The parish extended to 750 hectares. In the 1970's Rutland Water was constructed and the reservoir covers some 1,086 hectares.

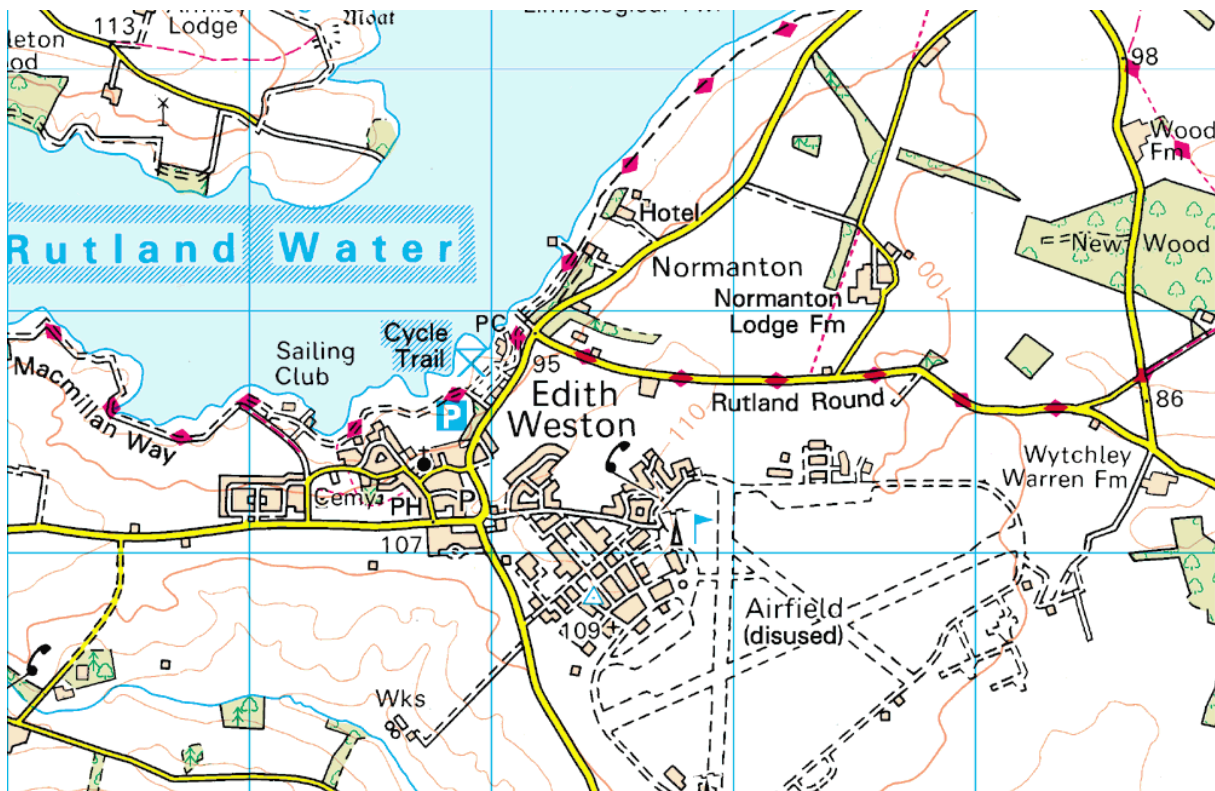


Figure 1. Location of Edith Weston

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Figure 1. Plan of development area; extension in light grey (supplied by client).

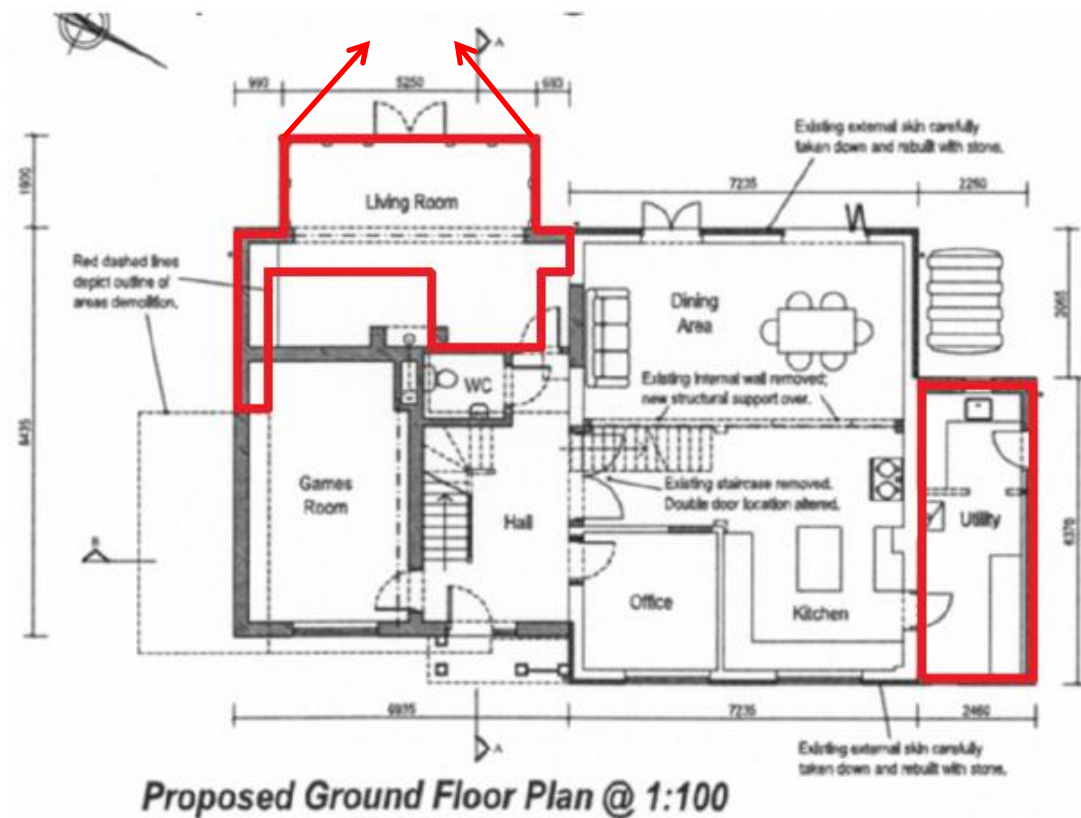


Figure 3. Proposal for ground floor development (supplied by client). Watched area highlighted in red. Soakaway trenches delineated by red arrows.

4. Archaeological Objectives

The project was to carry out an archaeological watching brief (with control and supervision) at the above site in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). This was carried out, as a requirement by the Planning Authority, on any ground works in connection with the erection of the new buildings and associated works. This work followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Clay 2014), recommended by the Principal Planning Archaeologist as specialist adviser to north-west Leicestershire District Council.

The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised 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 advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording was carried out with site visits on 15th December 2014 and 19th January 2015. The project involved the inspection and control of the hand-dug ground level reduction and foundation footprint strip by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

The excavation was undertaken by hand by Mr. Watterson (the client). All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed, and sample excavated and recorded as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS watching brief record forms.

The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Clay 2014) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (rev. 2014) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

6. Results

The former ground level was reduced within the footprint of the extension by *c.* 0.3 m. Two soakaway trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.7 m and 0.3-0.5 m wide, running west and south-west from the outer corners of the extension footprint and terminating in a soakaway hole *c.* 1.5 m in diameter and 1.7 m deep to the west of the property.

Topsoil was visible over the west of the site to a variable depth of 0.25-0.4 m (Figures 4-5). This comprised dark grey-black silty loam with occasional angular limestone pebbles. The topsoil contained occasional charcoal and coal fragments, flecks of orange clay and occasional modern pot sherds. No subsoil was apparent. Underlying the topsoil, and seen in the western section of the extension footprint, were modern paving slabs which were laid

directly atop the natural substratum over the entirety of the extension footprint (Figure 5). Also cut into the natural substratum was a pre-existing soakaway pipe and an area of made ground (Figure 6). In the extension foundation trench to the north of the property, topsoil was seen to a depth of *c.* 0.7 m and contained modern brick. This was underlain by disturbed ground and a concrete base (Figure 7).

The natural substratum comprised light orange-brown clay with rare angular limestone cobbles and boulders. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed in any of the areas subject to stripping and ground works.



Figure 4. Section through north-western soakaway trench showing topsoil and natural substratum.



Figure 5. Section through extension footprint showing modern paving slabs beneath topsoil and directly atop natural substratum.



Figure 6. Soakaway pipe cover (black asphalt slab in foreground) and made ground in natural substratum within extension footprint.



Figure 7. Concrete and made ground in the northernmost foundation trench.

7. Discussion

Despite the location of the site within the medieval settlement core and its proximity to listed buildings and medieval landmarks, no archaeological deposits or features were identified during the assessment.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Rutland County Council with accession number **OAKRM.2014.68**. The archive contains:

- 2 watching brief recording sheets
- 1 photographic record sheet
- Thumbnail prints of digital photographs
- CD containing digital photographs
- An unbound copy of this report, 2015-012

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York and is available at <http://oasis.ac.uk/>.

9. Publication

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

Table 1. Summary of OASIS information

Project OASIS no.	universi1-14650
Project Name	King Edward's Way, Edith Weston, Rutland
Project Type	Archaeological attendance (watching brief)
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Steve Baker/Rebecca Lucy Hearne
Previous/Future work	W/None
Current Land Use	Residential garden
Development Type	Detached dwelling extension
Reason for Investigation	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning condition
Site Co-ordinates	SK 92721 05252
Start/end dates of field work	15/12/2014- 20/01/2015
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Council
Study Area	c. 60 m ²

10. Bibliography

BGS. Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location>; accessed 20-01-2015.

Clay, P., 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance for observation and recording at 20 King Edwards Way, Edith Weston, Rutland, SK 92721 05252*. ULAS

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Mr & Mrs Watterson of 20 King Edward's Way and was carried out by Steve Baker and Rebecca Hearne. The author is grateful to Mr Mike Watterson for his cooperation on site. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project.

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20-01-2015

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