

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Coppice Paddock, Coppice Farm,
Glaston, Rutland
(SK 8958 0071)**

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For

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS at Coppice Farm, Glaston, Rutland (SK 8958 0071) during groundworks associated with a new dwelling, which was to be built on the site. Coppice Farm is situated within the medieval core of Glaston village and close to significant archaeological discoveries.

Trench excavation and topsoil stripping were observed during the watching brief but no archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were uncovered. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services or with Rutland County Council under site code RT02.2007

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for Tom Gilman Farms Ltd (NGR SK 8958 0071). This work was carried out during excavation of foundation and associated drainage trenches in advance of the construction of a new dwelling at Coppice Paddock, Coppice Farm, Wing Road, Glaston, Rutland (Planning application number FUL/2006/0444/NH).

The work was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), paragraph 30, and addresses the requirements for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work detailed in 'A Brief For Archaeological Attendance for Inspection & Recording (A Watching Brief)' (hereinafter 'The Brief') prepared on 20th October 2006 by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is close to a Palaeolithic site (HER ref. MLE9061), Bronze Age burials (MLE5275) and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (MLE5274). It may also be close to the site of 'The Old Manor' house. Consequently, the groundworks associated with the new development were seen to have a detrimental effect on any underlying archaeological remains that might have been present.

The site lies on the eastern side of Wing Road, and is one of the fields that lie to the north of the farm buildings of Coppice Farm on the northern side of Glaston, Rutland. Coppice Paddock, as its name suggests has always been a paddock and has never been ploughed. The land is flat but uneven and lies at a height of c.119m. A large earth bund, formed of overburden from the construction of some of the farm buildings, lies on the northern part of the site. Coppice Paddock consists of 1.12 hectares.

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The watching brief involved control and supervision of ground disturbance in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. An archaeologist visited the site on 27th November 2006 and 8th December 2006 and ground-works associated with the excavation of foundation trenches and stripping of topsoil for access roads was observed. The spoil heaps were also periodically checked for archaeological finds.

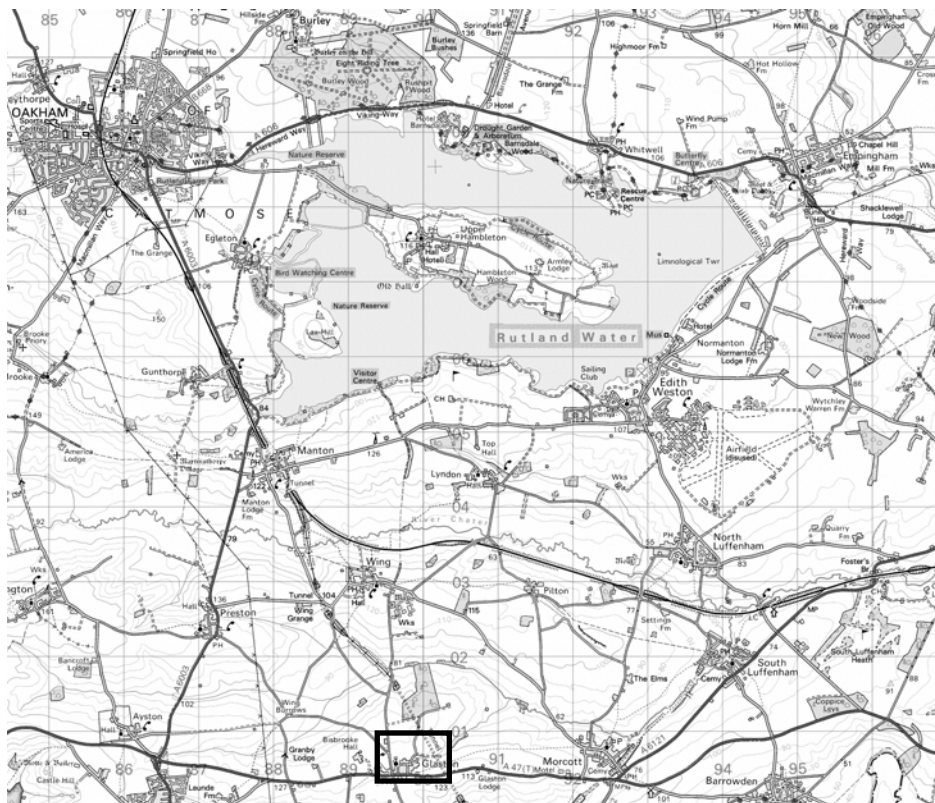


Figure 1: Location of Glaston. Scale 1:50 000

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Results

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 27th November 2006 and trenches associated with the foundations and drainage of the new dwelling were observed. The new house was to be constructed towards the centre of the western side of the field, with a garage to the south. The trenches were all excavated by a JCB 3CX backactor fitted with a toothed bucket.

Initially trenches for drainage were dug to the east and west of the footprint for the new building. These were soon flooded with groundwater, but the sequence of the

sediments could be observed. Later a further series of drainage trenches were dug to the south of the house footprint, extending for 40-50m east-west across the site. These were 0.6m wide and 1m deep.

All the trenches observed contained the same sequence, which consisted of 0.10-0.15m of silty yellowish brown topsoil overlying the substratum of brownish yellow clayey sand with medium and large angular ironstone inclusions. The soil sequence remained uniform throughout the entirety of the site, with little variation.

A further visit was undertaken on 8th December 2006 during the stripping of overburden prior to the construction of access roads. The topsoil and part of the subsoil were stripped to a depth of 0.3-0.4m. The sequence observed was identical to that of the previous visit with little variation in the soil. No archaeological features were observed and no finds associated with archaeological features were discovered.

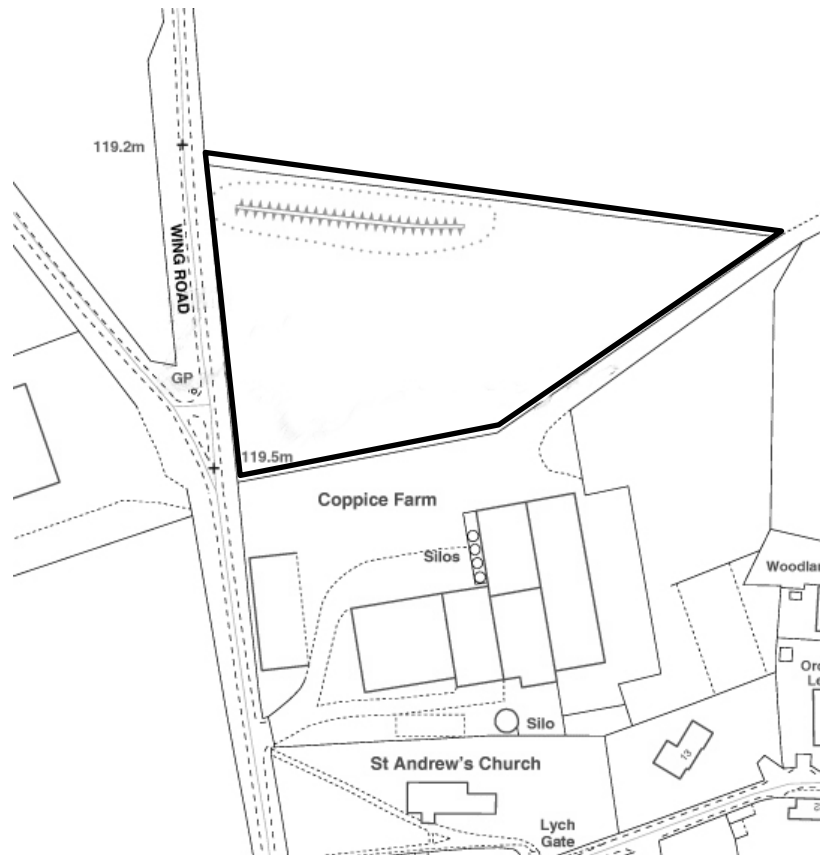


Figure 2: Plan of Coppice Farm, with Coppice Paddock highlighted. Scale c.1: 1250

Conclusions

The site at Coppice Farm had some potential due to the fact that the field had remained a paddock for some considerable time and had not been disturbed by deep ploughing. Despite the close proximity to the historic core of Glaston and known archaeological remains of some significance no archaeological features, or finds associated with archaeological features were observed.

As stripping and trenching were observed during these visits with negative results, no further archaeological attendance was deemed necessary.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Tom Gilman Farms Ltd and David Cox Building Contractors Ltd for their help and assistance with this project. Leon Hunt carried out the watching brief. The project manager was Patrick Clay.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services with site code RT02.2007 and consists of the following:

- 2 Watching Brief Recording Sheets
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Contact Sheet of Digital Prints
- 1 Copy of this report

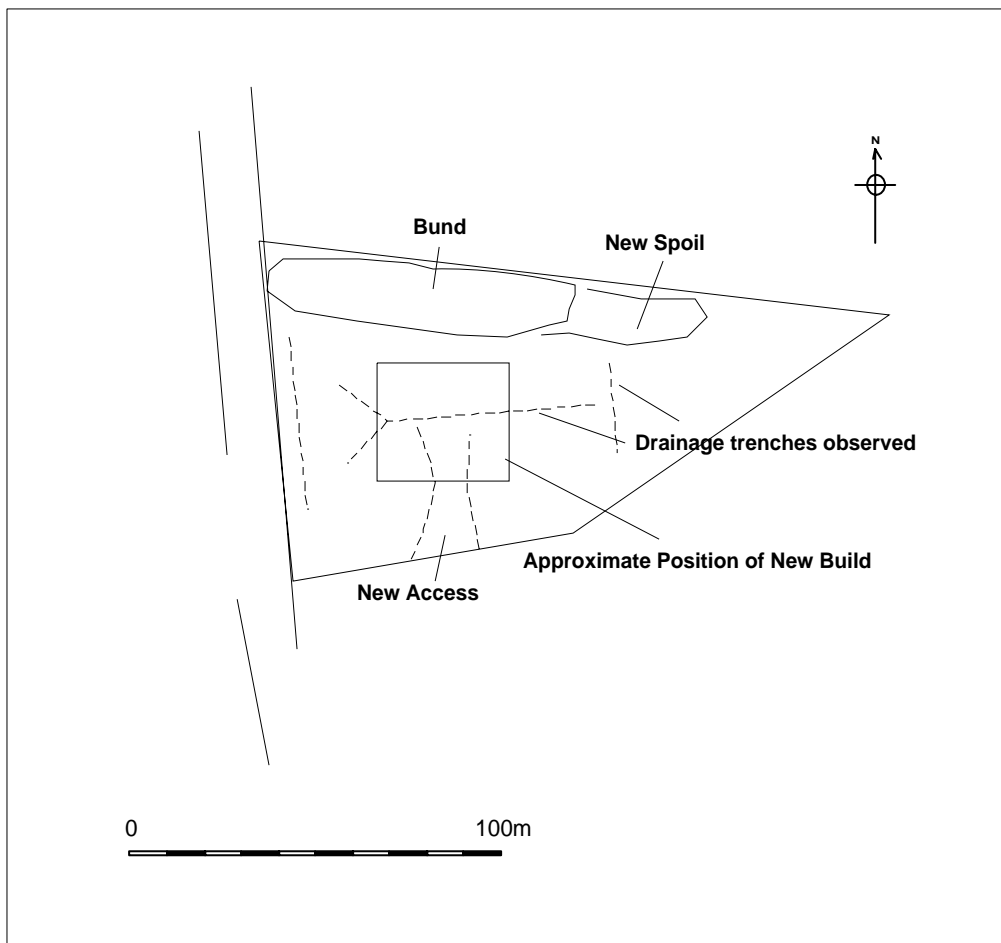


Figure 3: Plan of Coppice Paddock, with groundworks observed during watching brief



Plate 1: Work in progress on drains, looking west



Plate 2: West facing section of drainage trench, looking east



Plate 3: Area after topsoil stripping, looking north



Plate 4: Area after topsoil stripping, looking south east

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15/01/2007

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APPENDIX I:

A BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR
INSPECTION & RECORDING (A WATCHING BRIEF)

APPENDIX II:

DESIGN SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK