



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance during  
Groundworks at 27 Main Street,  
Foxton, Leicestershire**

**SP 70129 90111**

Roger Kipling




ULAS Report No 2016-077  
© ULAS 2016

**An Archaeological Attendance  
During Groundworks at  
27 Main Street Foxton, Leicestershire  
SP 70129 90111**

**Roger Kipling**

**For: Mr. R. Jones and Mrs. J. McCarthy-Jones**

Checked by :	
Signed:	
Date:	22.04.2016
Name:	Patrick Clay

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

**ULAS Report Number 2016-077**  
©2016  
**Accession Number X.A50.2016**

## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
Archaeological and Historical Background .....	4
Aims and Objectives .....	4
Methodology .....	5
Results.....	6
Discussion and Conclusions .....	7
Archive and Publications .....	7
OASIS Data Entry.....	8
Publication .....	9
Acknowledgements.....	9
Bibliography .....	9

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000) .....	2
Figure 2: Site Location within Foxton .....	3
Figure 3: Proposed development (provided by Client).....	3
Figure 4: Groundworks in progress; general view south-west across site.....	6
Figure 5: Excavation on the Middle Street frontage; view north.....	7

**Archaeological Attendance during Groundworks  
at 27 Main Street Foxton, Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 70129 90111**

Roger Kipling

**Summary**

*Archaeological attendance during groundworks was undertaken in April 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. R. Jones and Mrs. J. McCarthy-Jones on land at 27 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken following the granting of planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling and detached garage.*

*The archaeological attendance did not reveal any archaeological evidence.*

*The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A50.2016.*

**Introduction**

A scheme of archaeological attendance and recording before and during groundworks was undertaken at 27 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). The fieldwork specified was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, acting as advisor to the local planning authority, Harborough District Council, stipulated (Conditions 11 and 12) that a scheme of work comprising archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication (a 'Watching Brief') be undertaken prior to groundworks relating to the demolition and development of the site as a post-determination condition of planning approval of the development scheme (PA: 14/00761/FUL).

The scheme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). Condition 12 states: *No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work to be implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The works shall not be carried out other than in accordance with the approved details.*

The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2016).

All archaeological work was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CiFA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

### Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies on the north side of Main Street close to its junction with Middle Street in the northern area of Foxton (Figure 2). Foxton lies immediately south of the A6, 3 miles north-west of Market Harborough and 3 miles south-east of Kibworth, with Leicester located approximately 12 miles to the north-west. The proposed development site, occupied by grass, conifers and mixed bushes at the back of the garage and greenhouse of the current residence, comprises an area of circa 246m<sup>2</sup> and lies at a height of approximately 91.50m aOD.

The underlying geology is lue Lias and Mudstone Formation (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewergoogle/googleviewer.html>).

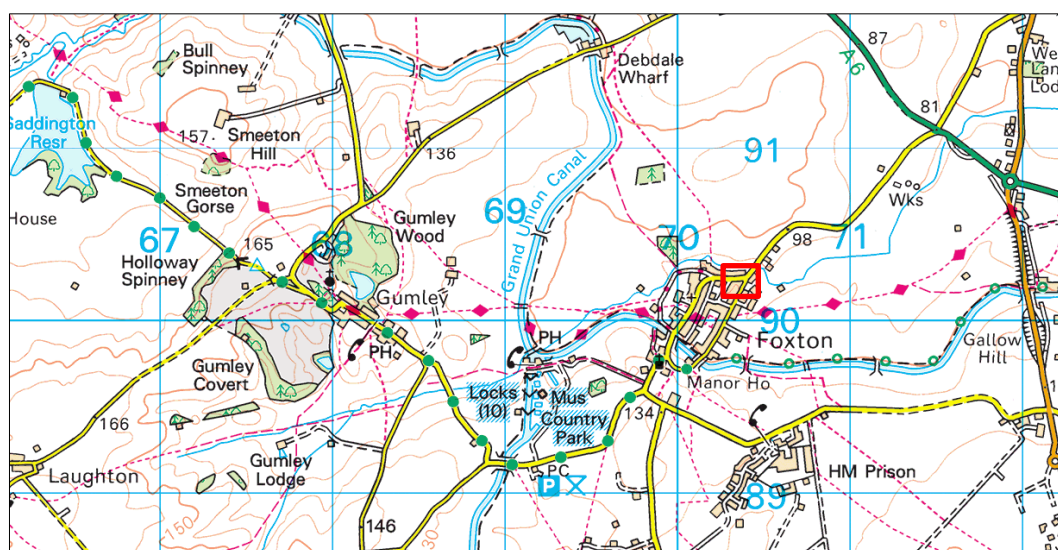


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

*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*

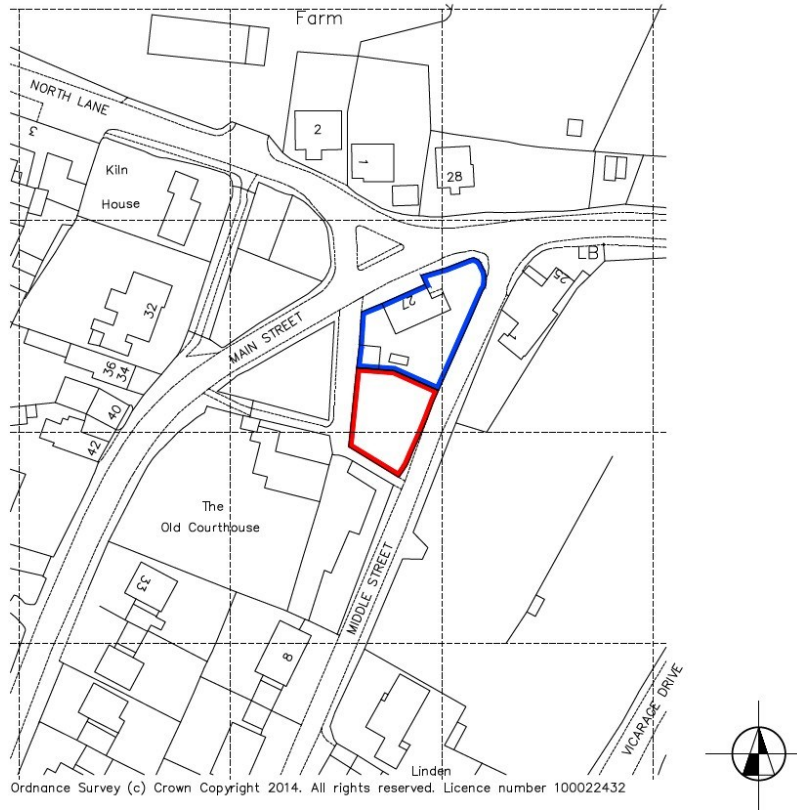


Figure 2: Site Location within Foxton



Figure 3: Proposed development (provided by Client)

## Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site is located in an area of archaeological interest within the historic settlement core of Foxton (HER ref: **MLE10125**).

The village of Foxton is set in agricultural land. It slopes down from the church in the south to a small brook that skirts the north of the village. A major feature of the village is that it is bisected by the Grand Union Canal, which cuts along the slope and through the south end of the oval of roads enclosing most of the village. The existence of the canal has affected the character and development of the village, with the area to the south of the canal differing from that to the north. The main part of the village lies to the north of the canal and is comprised of three parallel streets, Swingbridge Street, Middle Street and Main Street with cross connecting roads and tracks. Main Street is a mix of older buildings, including the former Baptist Chapel and The Old Court House and more contemporary buildings including Farmyard House. The proposed development forms the corner of the north junction between Main Street and Middle Street.

Available historical mapping and aerial photographs indicate that the application site has seen little disturbance since at least the 19th century, and as such any archaeological remains present are likely to be well-preserved.

## Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the archaeological attendance were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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 a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Northamptonshire HER.

In addition, the archaeological evaluation was deemed to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims, derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006). Potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards include the following:

The archaeological work offered the potential to contribute towards the questions in Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Updated Research Agenda and in particular could contribute to Research Objectives:

7E. *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.*



7F. *Investigate the development, structure and landholding of manorial estate centres.*  
7I. *Investigate the development of the open-field system and medieval woodland management.*

8E. *Identify agricultural improvements of the 16th to 18th centuries.*

9D. *Investigate the use of rivers for transport and power and their relationship to other communication networks.*

9G. *Assess the landscape impact of the early industrialization of agriculture.*

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

This specification conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
- *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Association of Local Government Officers, 2003);
- *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire County Council 1997)

## **Methodology**

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 Principal Planning Archaeologist (PPA) of Leicestershire County Council, a programme of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken.

In accordance with the design specification document, the project involved the controlled machine excavation of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. Excavations were undertaken with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata. A photographic record, utilising high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork.



## ***Results***

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a *c.*1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket was employed under constant archaeological supervision to open the foundation trenches for the new residential building.

Proceeding from initial clearance of vegetation and machine excavation of *c.*0.20m-0.30m of mid grey-brown clay loam garden soil across the building footprint, excavation of wall foundation trenches was undertaken over several days between 11th and 20th April 2013. Machining revealed 0.10m-0.40m of a pale grey-brown clay silt subsoil, which increased in depth towards the south, and an underlying patchy pale orange-brown and pale grey natural clay with periodic Mercia Mudstone inclusions. Trench depths averaged at *c.*1.3m.

Two modern ceramic field drains were traced traversing the site on broadly east-west and north-south axes. No archaeological remains were forthcoming.



Figure 4: Groundworks in progress; general view south-west across site



Figure 5: Excavation on the Middle Street frontage; view north

## Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological field evaluation at Main Street Foxton, Leicestershire, produced no archaeological evidence. The site's somewhat peripheral location towards the northern edge of the village and the presence of modern field drains would suggest that the site remained as open land until its demarcation as garden to the rear of 27 Main Street.

## Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A50.2016, consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- 1 x watching brief sheets
- 18 digital photographs
- A risk assessment form

## OASIS Data Entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-xxxx		
	<b>Project Name</b>	27 Main Street Foxton Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	11-04-2016 - 22-03-2016		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Watching brief		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	14/00761/FUL			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Foxton LE16 7RB		
	<b>Study Area</b>	246m <sup>2</sup>		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 70129 90111		
	<b>Height OD</b>	91.5m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Dr Patrick Clay		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Roger Kipling		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer/ Mr. R. Jones and Mrs. J. McCarthy-Jones		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	NA	NCC MusService	LCCMusService
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>		X.A50.0216	X.A50.0216
	<b>Contents</b>		Photos	Watching brief records
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Attendance at 27 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire		
	<b>Author</b>	Kipling, R.		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2016-153		
	<b>Date</b>	2016		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		

## Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the watching brief on behalf of Mr. R. Jones and Mrs. J. McCarthy-Jones. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

## 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.

CifA, 2014 Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA)

English Heritage 1997. *Draft Research Agenda*.

English Heritage 2010. *English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies*. Consultation Draft June 2010.

Knight, D.; Vyner, B.; Allen, C.; 2012, *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.

LMARS 2014. *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*.

*ULAS 2016 Written scheme of investigation for Archaeological Attendance during Groundworks at 27 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire LE16 7RB*

Author contact details:

Roger Kipling  
University of Leicester Archaeological Services  
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)

21/04/2016



## 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)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION  
2013

