

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Nutts Farmyard (North),
Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland.
(SK 975 045).**

Gavin Speed

For: Liberty Homes Ltd

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: **Date:**.....

Name:

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

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Figure 1: Site location. Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

Figure 2: Location plan. Scale 1:2500.

Figure 3: Site plan. Scale 1:500

Figure 4: General shot of site looking northeast.

Figure 5: Photo of an excavated foundation trench.

Appendix 1 : Design Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief. ULAS 01/531 (14.11.2003).

Appendix 2: Brief for archaeological watching brief at Nutts Farmyard (North), Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland. Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (19.07.2000).

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Nutts Farmyard (North), Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland (SK 975 045).

Gavin Speed

University of Leicester Archaeological Services
Report No. 2004/010

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for construction of four dwellings at Nutts Farmyard (North), Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland (SK 975 045; P.A 00/0483/9) by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Liberty Homes Ltd.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work. The site archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum.

1. Introduction

Ketton lies to the south east of Oakham, Rutland (Fig 1.). The site for the new dwellings is at Nutts Farmyard (North), Manor Green, Ketton, (NGR SK 975 045). The site is located within the historic core of the village (Fig 2.), near to known Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements at Ketton; therefore there was reasonable potential for buried archaeological deposits. In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground works was required as part of the planning conditions by Rutland County Council (planning application 00/0483/9). This requirement was detailed in the *Brief for archaeological watching brief at Nutts Farmyard (North), Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland.* (Appendix 2) produced by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (19.07.2000).

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, Liberty Homes Ltd. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 2nd June and 9th December 2003.

2. Location and Geology

The development area is located to the north of Manor Green in Ketton, Rutland (SK 975 045), at a height of *c.*44m O.D. The underlying geology comprised of Pleistocene river gravels (Geological Survey Sheet 157).

3. Archaeological Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Archaeological Background

Previous archaeological work within the application area comprised of a buildings appraisal and photographic survey (Finn 2003). The Buildings Appraisal indicated that the former *Implement Store* was constructed in the 19th century, before 1889. The *Tool Store/Workshop* was constructed some time between 1768 and 1889, as an addition to an earlier building. The two structures were typical midland farm building types of the 18th/19th centuries. Both incorporate fragments of earlier structures within their fabric, although little significant information on these may be gleaned from what remains.

5. Methodology

The watching brief involved supervision of overburden machine stripping, and ground works in advance of the construction of two detached properties. This was carried out using a JCB 3CX with a toothed bucket. Following the machine excavation, all foundation trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

The work followed the *Archaeological design specification for archaeological work (ULAS 14/1/03)*, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

6. Results

The topsoil overburden consisted of a poor quality dark grey-brown silty clay with some modern brick and plastic, this generally went to a depth of c. 0.2m. The subsoil also consisted of a light orange-brown silty-clay. The natural substratum begun at a depth of c.0.5m, and consisted of light brownish-blue clay.

No archaeological finds or deposits were located within overburden or in the foundation trenches of the building at the north end of the site. In the foundation trenches of the second building (at the southern-end of the site), a stone/brick-lined culvert was identified running east to west from the Manor Green road into the site. No finds were found in context with the culvert, it is probably of a post-medieval or modern date.

7. Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

8. Site Archive

The archive consists of site notes, sketches and photographs to be held by Rutland County Museum.

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for inclusion in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

10. Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Ms Julie Pickwell of Liberty Homes for their help and cooperation during the watching brief. This archaeological watching brief was carried out by Gavin Speed and Andrew Hyam; the project manager was Patrick Clay.

11. Bibliography

- Finn, N. 2003 *Nutts Farmyard, Manor Green, Ketton, Rutland: Buildings Appraisal and Photographic Survey*. ULAS Report 2003-100.
- MAP 2 *The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991.*
- RFG/FRG 1993 *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993).*

Gavin Speed
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

gs50@leicester.ac.uk
Tel:0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614

15.01.2004

12. Illustrations

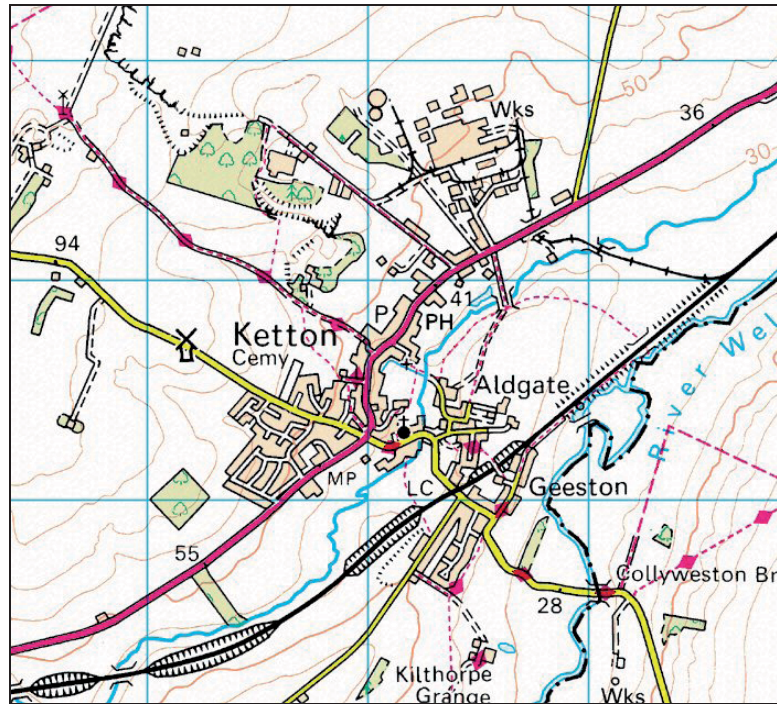


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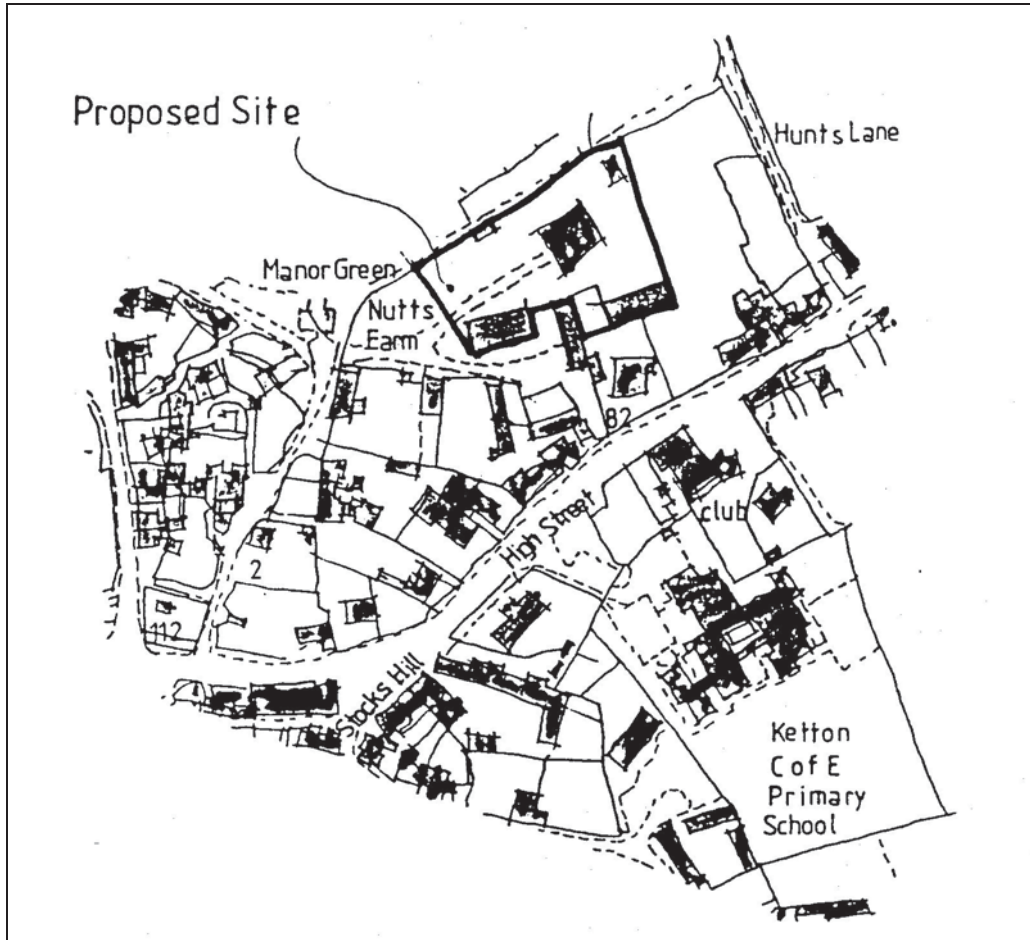


Figure 2: Location plan. Scale 1:2500.

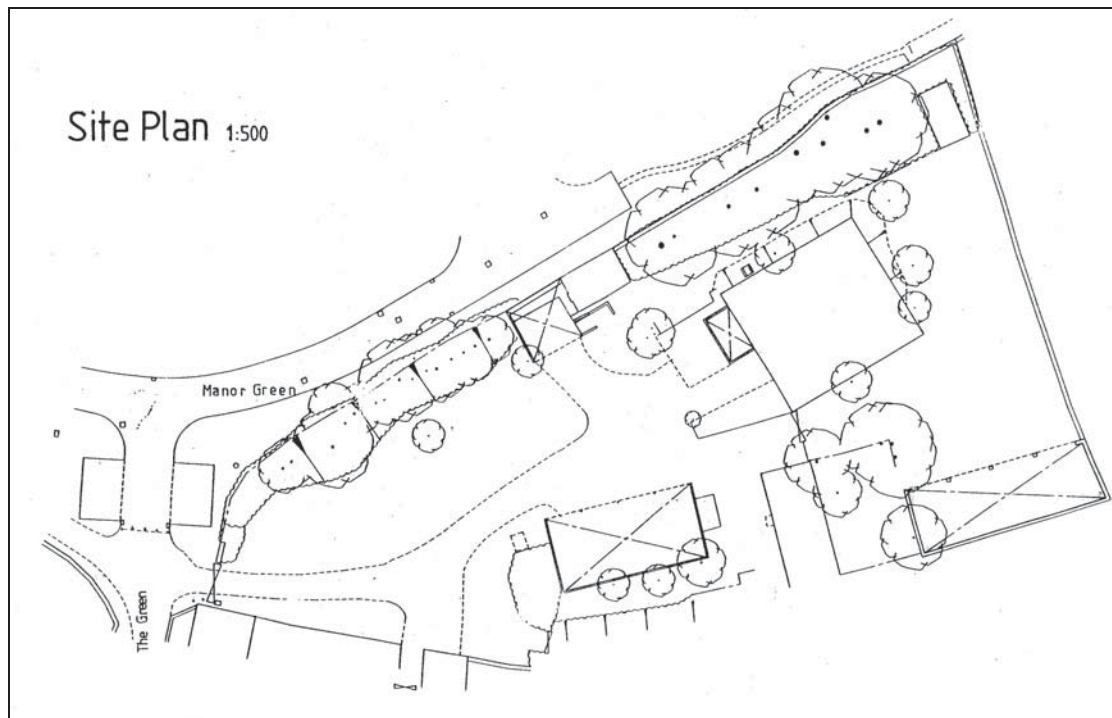


Figure 3: Site plan. Scale 1:500.



Figure 4: General shot of site looking northeast.

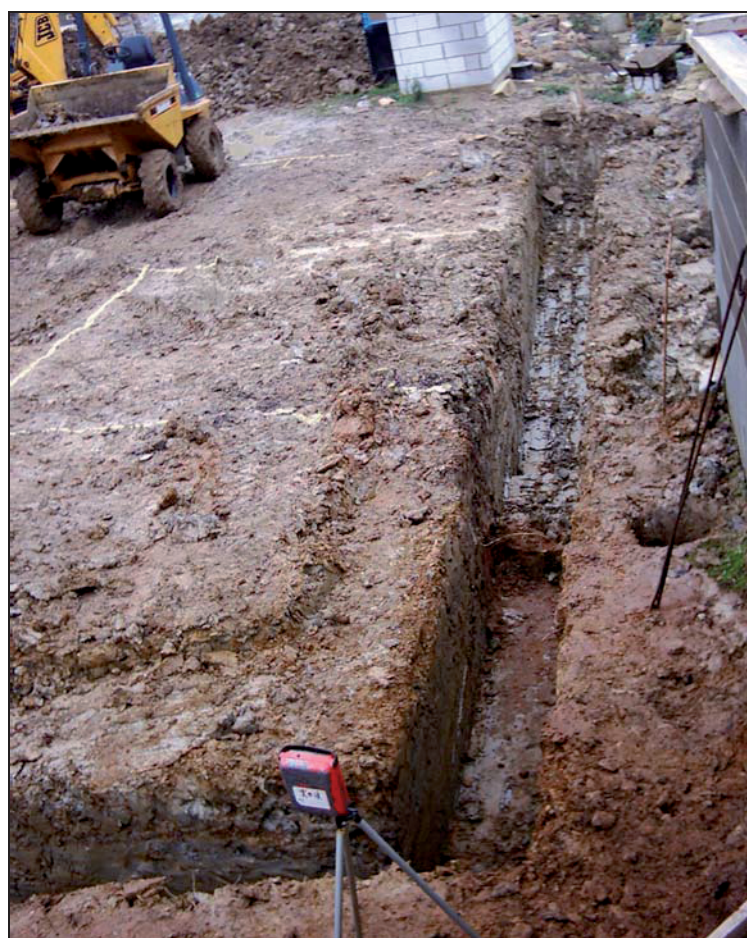


Figure 5: Photo of an excavated foundation trench.