



**An Archaeological
Watching Brief on
Land opposite Walton
Hall, Chapel Lane,
Walton, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 59628
86905**



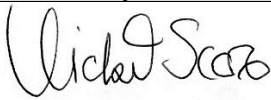
Roger Kipling

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on Land opposite Walton Hall,
Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire
NGR: SP 59628 86905**

Roger Kipling

For: Mr and Mrs Sharpley

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| | | |

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in February 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Sharpley on land opposite Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire. The fieldwork was undertaken to fulfil planning conditions for a residential development on land opposite Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire. The scheme of archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks was undertaken in order to mitigate the potential impact of the development on any such archaeological remains as might be present.

The archaeological watching brief revealed archaeological activity towards the rear of the property in the form of two pits, one of which produced pottery and roof tile dated to the 13th to 14th/15th centuries, and is likely to represent contemporary refuse disposal probably associated with a nearby building.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A13.2017.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological watching brief on land opposite Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire, NGR: SP 59628 86905 of Mr and Mrs Sharpley. Under planning application number 15/01674/FUL permission has been granted for the erection of single dwelling.

The Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire as advisor to the planning authority specified the need for archaeological work. This comprised a scheme of archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks in order to mitigate the potential impact of the development on any such archaeological remains as might be present.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Walton is a small village west of Lutterworth, just south of Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome (Figure 1). The development area lies towards the eastern edge of the historic core of Walton village opposite Walton Hall in Chapel Lane. The property fronts Chapel Lane

between Magnolia Cottage to the east and the former Windmill public house to the west and was previously laid to lawn (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone overlain with Mid Pleistocene Diamicton Till. The ground level is *c.*137m aOD.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Kimcote & Walton in South Leicestershire have been in existence since before the Norman Conquest in 1066 and are likely to have originated as Anglo Saxon villages.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, inside the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village (**MLE8887**). It sits close to the medieval parish church of St. Guthlac (**MLE12687**) and within an area of well-preserved medieval village earthworks and ridge and furrow, which relate to the medieval settlement (**DLE7511**). Consequently, there was deemed to be good potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains within the application area, which were likely to be affected by the proposed development.



Figure 1: Site location (from CgMs 2015 Fig 1)

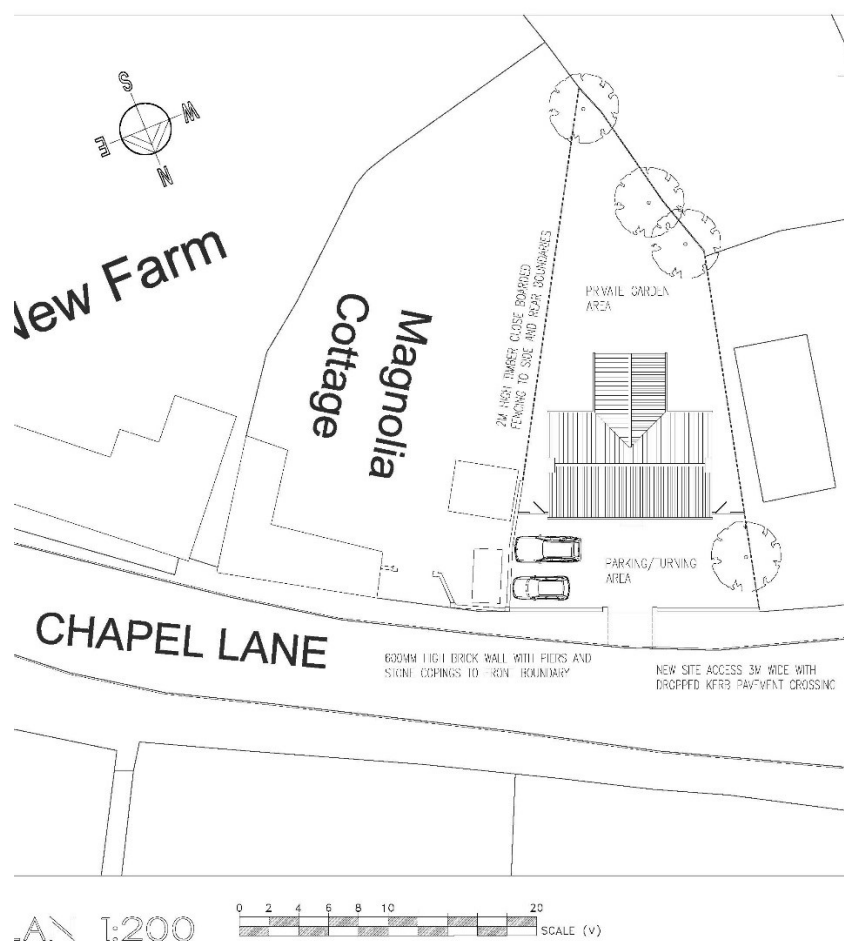


Figure 2: Location of development, provided by client

Aims and Methods

All exploratory and mitigation work was considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012), along with targeting national research aims, highlighted as English Heritage's critical research priorities for the medieval period (EH 2012).

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

Methodology

The *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ULAS 2017) approved by the County Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the planning authority, who also monitored the fieldwork, required an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in order to determine the presence/absence, character and extent of archaeological remains.

Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.5m toothed ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

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

Results

The programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (Watching brief) consisted of the observation of groundworks associated with construction of foundations for a single residential structure set back from the road frontage. A mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket excavated foundation trenches to 1m depth (Figure 3).



Figure 3: General view south across development area

A general *c.*0.2m spread of dark grey clay loam garden soil overlay a 0.2m-0.3m accumulation of mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil. The natural substrata across the development area was a dull orange clay.

Archaeological activity was observed during groundworks on rear south-west corner of the building towards the rear of the development area, where two substantial pits were identified in the sides of the footings trenches, sealed by overlying subsoil (Figure 4).

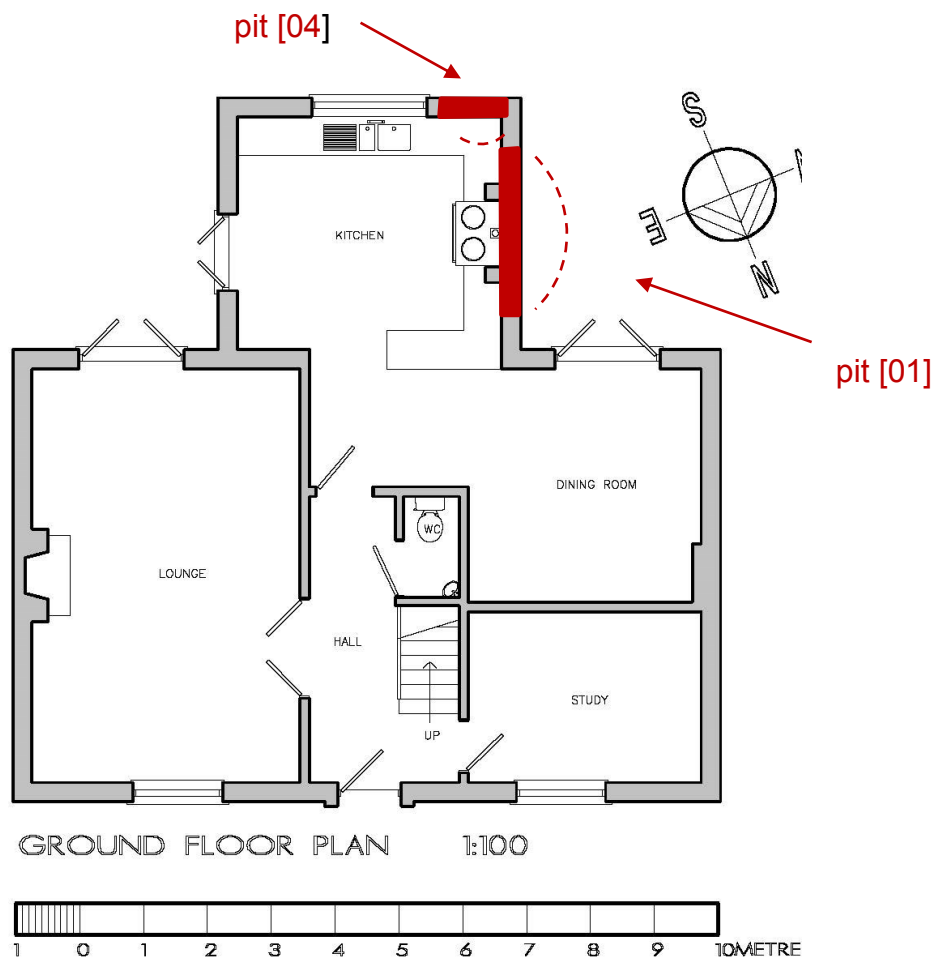


Figure 4: Plan of development with locations of pits highlighted

The more substantial of the two (pit **[01]**), was located close to the fenced western property boundary (Figure 5 & Figure 6). The feature measured 2.75m wide north-south and a minimum of 1m in depth; its width could not be determined within the limits of the trenches. The near-vertical cut contained two fills (**02** & **03**), the latter, comprising a mid-grey clay silt, produced sandstone rubble and ceramic building material including a significant proportion of one vessel, a Potters Marston jar. A fragment of flat roof tile was also recorded. The material ranged in date from the 13th to the later 14th or early 15th century.

The second, undated pit **[04]** measured 1.1m wide, 0.55m deep and with 45° sides sloping to a concave base; its single dark grey clay silt fill (**05**) did not produce any dating evidence, its but was also sealed by subsoil and is possibly contemporary with the other feature (Figure 7 & Figure 8).



Figure 5: Pit [01]; view west (1m scale)

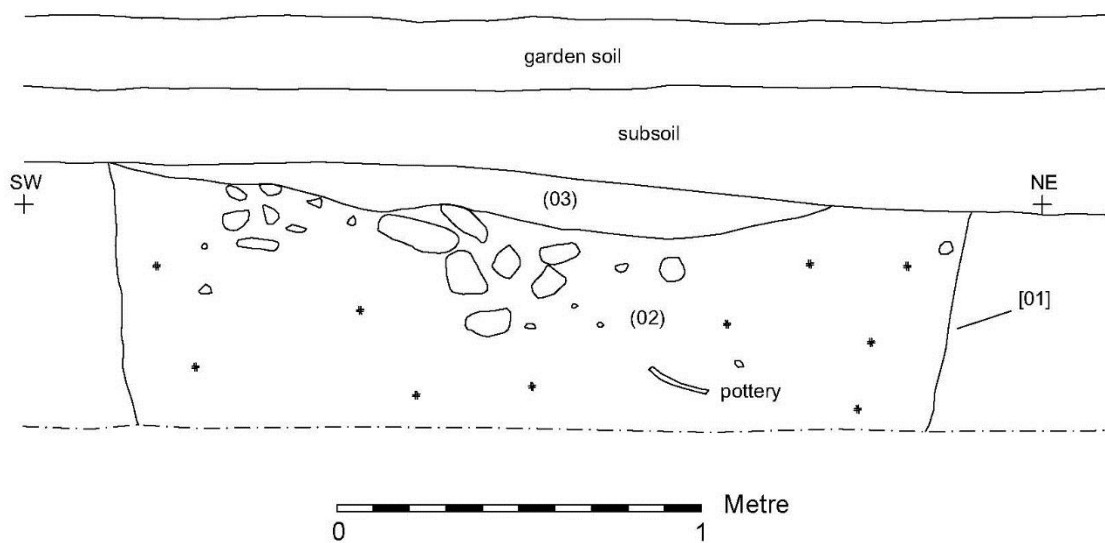


Figure 6: Pit [01]



Figure 7: Pit [04]; view north-east (1m scale)

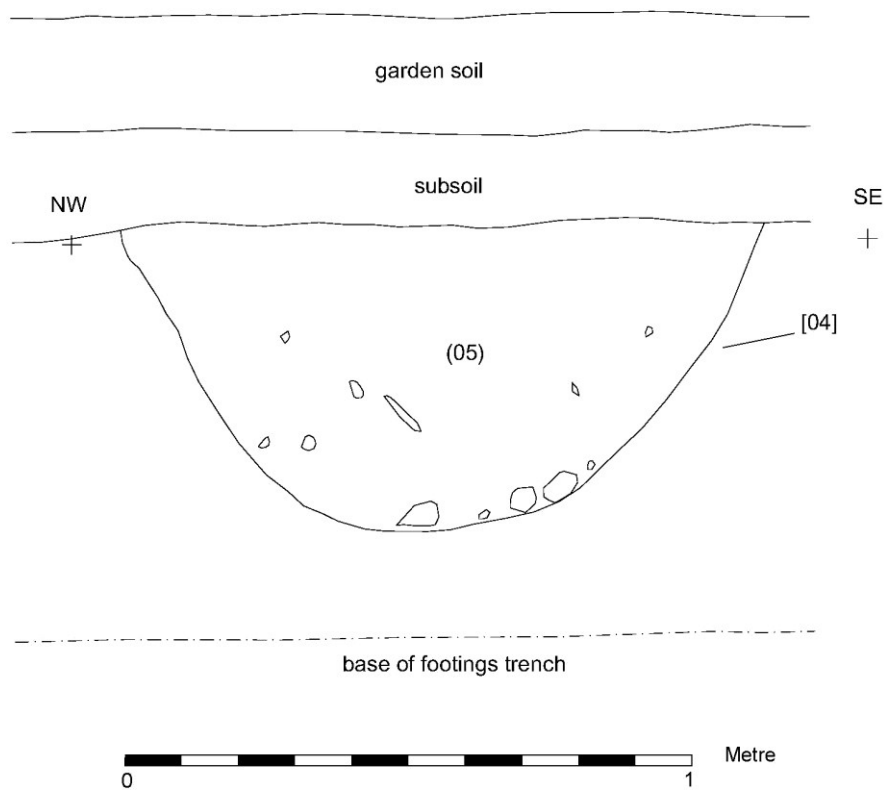


Figure 8: Pit [04]

The Ceramic Finds - Deborah Sawday

The pottery assemblage was made up of 29 sherds, weighing 1.097kg representing a maximum count of four vessels. The condition of the pottery was good with relatively little abrasion, and an average sherd weight of 37.8 grams. Several joining sherds made up a significant proportion of one vessel, a Potters Marston jar. A fragment of flat roof tile, weighing 28 g. was also recorded. The material ranged in date from the 13th to the 14th or 15th centuries in date. All the finds were recovered from the pit, context 2.

Table 1: The medieval pottery and tile fabrics.

| Fabric | Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known | Approx. Date Range |
|---|---|--|
| PM | Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (1) | c.1100- c.1300/50+ |
| CS | Coarse Shelly ware (includes sherds previously catalogued as LY4 – Lyveden Stanion A ware) - Northampton fabric T1/2, T2, Northants CTS 330 (2) | c.1100-1400 |
| CC2 | - Chilvers Coton fabric C (14), Warwick CTS SQ30 (3) | c.1250/1300- 1500 |
| (1) Haynes 1952, Davies and Sawday 1999 | | (3) Mayes & Scott 1984, Soden & Ratkai 1998. |
| (2) Northants CTS, McCarthy 1979 | | |

Methodology

The material was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999, Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (tables 1 and 2).

Conclusion

The large average sherd weight and the presence of a significant proportion of one vessel suggest that this was perhaps secondary refuse. The finds also indicate the possible survival of other archaeological levels in the vicinity.

Table 2: The pottery and flat roof tile by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight and maximum vessel count.

| Context | Fabric/ware | No | Gr | Comments |
|---------|-----------------------------|----|-----|--|
| POT | | | | |
| 2 pit | PM – Potters Marston | 24 | 913 | 1 vessel, some joins ?part profile, a shouldered jar, sooted externally, everted rim, sim at 13 th C. kiln site (Haynes1952, fig.1) |
| 2 | PM | 1 | 53 | 1 vessel, a jar, everted ,rim (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.84.3) |
| 2 | PM | 2 | 68 | Basal angle, join |
| 2 | CS – Coarse Shelly ware | 2 | 63 | Flared bowl – simple everted rim |
| TILE | | | | |
| 2 | CC2 – Chilvers Coton C ware | 1 | 28 | Flat roof tile. 14 th -15 th C. |

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological watching brief revealed archaeological activity towards the rear of the property in the form of two pits, one of which produced pottery and roof tile dated to the 13th to 14th/15th centuries. This is likely to represent contemporary refuse disposal and suggests that there were buildings nearby. The earliest available OS map (1886), shows the area as undeveloped but it is possible that the pits lay in the backyard plots of structures fronting onto Chapel Lane

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A13.2017.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A13 2017), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 2 watching brief record sheets
- 5 single context record sheets
- Context, drawing and photographic record indices
- 14 digital photographs
- 2 x A3 drawing sheet
- Risk assessment form

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr & Mrs Sharpley. The project was managed by Vicki Score.

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OASIS Data Entry

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| PROJECT DETAILS | OASIS ID | universi1-284445 | | |
| | Project Name | Land opposite Walton Hall, Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire | | |
| | Start/end dates of field work | 06-02-2017 - 07-02-2017 | | |
| | Previous/Future Work | No | | |
| | Project Type | Watching brief | | |
| | Site Status | None | | |
| | Current Land Use | garden | | |
| | Monument Type/Period | medieval pits | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | Medieval, pottery | | |
| | Development Type | Residential development | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | NPPF | | |
| | Position in the Planning Process | Planning condition | | |
| | Planning Ref. | 15/01674/FUL | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | Site Address/Postcode | Land opposite Walton Hall, Chapel Lane, Walton, Leicestershire, LE17 5RL | | |
| | Study Area | 0.5ha | | |
| | Site Coordinates | SP 59628 86905 | | |
| | Height OD | 137m OD | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | Organisation | ULAS | | |
| | Project Brief Originator | Local Planning Authority (NCC) | | |
| | Project Design Originator | ULAS | | |
| | Project Manager | Vicki Score | | |
| | Project Director/Supervisor | Roger Kipling | | |
| | Sponsor/Funding Body | Mr & Mrs Sharpley | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | | Physical | Digital | Paper |
| | Recipient | ULAS | ULAS | ULAS |
| | ID (Acc. No.) | X.A13 2017 | X.A13 2017 | X.A13 2017 |
| | Contents | Pottery | Photos | Site records Field notes Plans |
| PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY | Type | Grey Literature (unpublished) | | |
| | Title | <i>An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land opposite Walton Hall, Walton, Leicestershire</i> | | |
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