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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Observation,
Investigation and Recording of
Groundworks at Dairy Farm,
St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford
St. Andrew, Northamptonshire
NGR: SP 59628 86905**




Roger Kipling

ULAS Report No 2017-045
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**An Archaeological Observation, Investigation
and Recording of Groundworks at Dairy Farm,
St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire
NGR: SP 59628 86905**

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For: Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby

Approved by:

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ULAS Report Number 2017-045
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Accession Number ENN 108229

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Summary

An Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording of Groundworks was undertaken in February 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby Dairy Farm, St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was a post-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a residential development involving the conversion of farm outbuildings into three new dwellings and the construction of one new dwelling. The farm buildings had recently been the subject of an historic building survey (Level 2). The follow-up 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 several walls of probable modern date and likely relating to building(s) located within the former farmyard, one of which appears on Ordnance Survey maps.

The site archive will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council under the accession number ENN 108229.

Introduction

An archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording of Groundworks was undertaken in February 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby Dairy Farm, St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was a post-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a residential development involving the conversion of farm outbuildings into three new dwellings and the construction of one new dwelling. The farm buildings had recently been the subject of an historic building survey (Level 2). The follow-up 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.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

Cranford St. Andrew lies on the northern side of the A14 approximately 5km to the south east of Kettering (Fig. 1). There are two adjacent villages with the name of Cranford; Cranford St. John and Cranford St. Andrew. Cranford St. John is the largest and most southerly of the two and is a long settlement straddling the former A604 Kettering to Thrapston Road. In recent years the A604 has been declassified now that the A14 has been constructed. Cranford St. Andrew lies approximately 400m to the north west and is a smaller settlement located on the western side of Cranford Hall.

Dairy Farm consists of a large farmhouse at the eastern end of the farm complex with a range of barns, open sheds and outbuildings to the west. The main Grade II listed farmhouse, with barns set around a courtyard, do not form part of this scheme and are not owned by the client.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium over Blisworth limestone formation - limestone and Stamford Member – Sandstone and siltstone, interbedded.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest and is within the medieval settlement of Cranford St. Andrew. It is surrounded by a number of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement sites. The medieval period is represented by both Cranford settlements and surrounding areas of ridge and furrow left over from the open field system. Post medieval and modern industrial activity is seen in a number of ironstone quarrying areas and the redundant railway line to the south.



Figure 1: Cranford St. Andrew location

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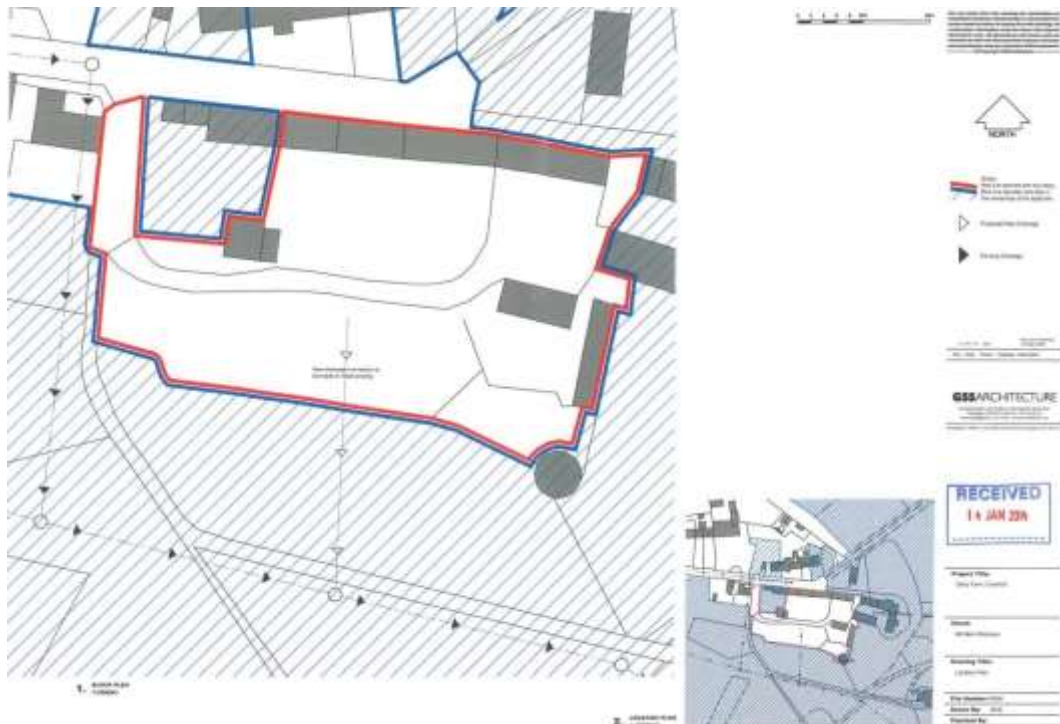


Figure 2: Location of proposed development, provided by client

Aims and Methods

Fieldwork was carried out in February 2016 and addressed the requirements from Northamptonshire County Council for a scheme of work comprising archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording of Groundworks and follow up publication.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with Following National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. 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). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

The objectives of the Observation, Investigation & Recording of Groundworks 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.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In addition, all mitigation work was to be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012), along with targeting national research aims. The Observation, Investigation & Recording of Groundworks has the potential to contribute to the following research agenda topics (Knight *et al.* 2012) themes:

The work had the potential to contribute towards the following research agenda topics (Knight *et al.* 2012):

6.3 *Neolithic and Early/Middle Bronze Age*: 6.3.5 Settlement patterns; 6.3.8 Neolithic and Bronze societies

6.4 *Late Bronze Age and Iron Age*: 6.4.3 LBA/EIA Settlements; 6.4.4 MIA Settlements; 6.4.5 LIA settlements; 6.4.8 Agricultural economy and landscape; 6.4.9 Finds, crafts, industry and exchange

6.5 *Romano-British*: 6.5.1. Chronology; 6.5.4 Rural Settlement Patterns and landscapes; 6.5.5 The agricultural economy

6.7 *High Medieval* 6.7.2. Rural settlement; 6.7.7 The agrarian landscape

Results

The programme of archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording consisted of the observation of groundworks associated with construction of foundations for a single residential structure located in the former farmyard. A mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket excavated footings trenches to 1m depth (Figure 3).



Figure 3: General view southeast across development area

As observed during groundworks, a general *c.*0.7m spread of mixed dark grey clay silt overlay a 0.2m-0.3m accumulation of mid grey-brown clay garden soil and underlying 0.7m deep mid grey clay silt subsoil containing ceramic building material (CBM) and limestone rubble over a pale grey natural clay.

Masonry wall footings were encountered in several foundation trenches across the farmyard area, sealed by overlying subsoil and seemingly relating to one, possibly two buildings (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

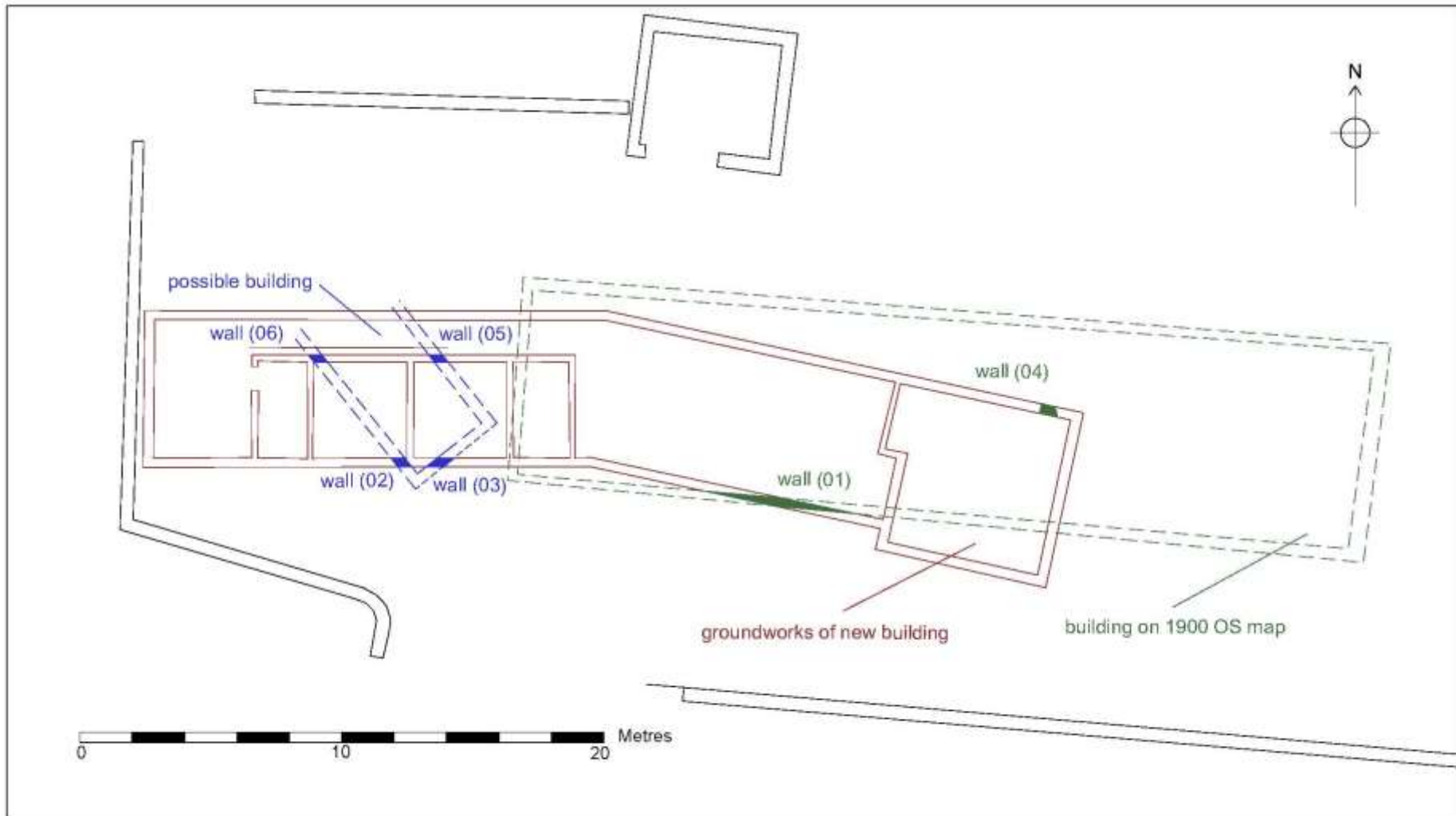


Figure 4: Site location plan with walls observed

Western Building

Walls (02), (03), (05) (06)

Traces of a possible undocumented building were located at the western end of the farmyard. The structure measured *c.*4m east-west and at least 7m north-south and was aligned broadly northwest – southeast. Four 0.4m wide walls, **(02)**, **(03)**, **(05)** **(06)**, with a uniform shaped, undressed coursed limestone block build with a pale yellow-brown sandy lime mortar bond were observed in groundworks trenches (Figure 5, Figure 56). **(06)** was completely truncated by the trench and comprised a 0.2m thick base of 10cm limestone lumps and CBM fragments in a tightly compact pale grey silt matrix, overlain by a 0.35m thick possible superstructure of two or three roughly coursed undressed limestone blocks set in a buff mortar matrix (Figure 7). Further modern brick rubble alongside the wall likely represented collapsed superstructure.



Figure 5: Wall (02): view northwest (1m scale)



Figure 6: Wall (03): view northeast (1m scale)



Figure 7: Wall (06): view south (1m scale)

Eastern Building

Walls (01) & (04)

Traces of a possible second structure were revealed during groundworks directly east of the first. Fragmentary traces of a buff mortar wall base **(01)** were observed running east-west at the base of a footings trench *c.* 7m north of the farmyard wall (Figure 8). There were no indications of surviving masonry or CBM footings or superstructure. A fragmentary section of walling **(04)** with a curving outer face was encountered *c.* 7m to the north-east. Whilst not appearing to accord with the location of the building recorded on the 1900 OS map, its curvature may indicate that this formed part of a centrally placed well.



Figure 8: Wall (01): view southeast towards dovecote

Discussion and Conclusions

An archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording of Groundworks was undertaken in February 2016 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby, Dairy Farm, St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was a post-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for a residential development involving the conversion of farm outbuildings into three new dwellings and the construction of one new dwelling. The farm buildings had recently been the subject of an historic building survey (Level 2). The follow-up 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 several walls of limestone and CBM build of probable modern date and likely relating to building(s) located within the former farmyard. The eastern example appears to represent the rectangular structure recorded on the 1930 edition Ordnance Survey map, whilst the smaller, eastern building is an unrecorded structure set at an angle in the southwest corner of the farmyard.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (ENN 108229), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Northamptonshire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 3 watching brief record sheets
- Photographic record indices
- 40 digital photographs
- Risk assessment form

OASIS Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Project Name	Dairy Farm, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire		
	Start/end dates of field work	01-02-2016 - 03-02-2016		
	Previous/Future Work	Building survey prior to this; no further work		
	Project Type	Watching brief		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	farmyard		
	Monument Type/Period	Modern		
	Significant Finds/Period	walls		
	Development Type	Residential development		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	KET/2011/0744 & KET/2011/0748		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Dairy Farm, St Andrews Lane, Cranford, Northamptonshire NN14 4AQ		
	Study Area	0.5ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 59628 86905		
	Height OD	70m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (NCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)	ENN 108229	ENN 108229	ENN108229
	Contents	Pottery	Photos	Site records Field notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording of Groundworks at Dairy Farm, St. Andrew's Lane, Cranford St. Andrew, Northamptonshire NGR: SP 59628 86905		
	Author	Kipling, R.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-045		
	Date	2017		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

Publication

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

Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling and Nathan Flavell of ULAS undertook the archaeological investigation on behalf of Mr Kersley Kershaw-Dalby. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

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