



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
At 2 Kings Lane,  
Barrowden,  
Rutland**

**NGR: SK 94955 00091**

Andrew Hyam



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**For: Thomas Wilson Architects**

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## **An Archaeological watching Brief at 2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, Rutland. NGR: SK 94955 00091**

**Andrew Hyam**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, Rutland on the 26th of September 2017. The watching brief took place during ground works in preparation for an extension which will be built against the northern side of a late 18th century house. The results show that the ground has been heavily disturbed by earlier building work and by terracing.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were found within the proposed area of development.*

*The report and archive will be deposited under Accession Number OAKRM:2017.24*

### **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. Planning permission has been granted under application 016/0852/FUL and 2016/0857/LBA for the redevelopment of the existing Grade II listed house. Due to the historic nature of the house and the site's location within the village core a request was made by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, for a programme of historic building recording followed by an archaeological watching brief where a proposed extension will be built on the north side of the house. The results of the building survey are discussed in a separate report (Hyam 2017).

The village of Barrowden lies approximately 8km to the east of Uppingham and 15km to the south-west of Stamford (Fig. 1). The proposed development site lies at the southern end of Kings Lane which runs from north to south close to the eastern side of the village (Fig. 2). Kings Lane forms the western boundary of the house and garden site. At the time of the survey the site consisted of the main house with gardens to the front and rear (Figs 3 and 4). The rear garden had been cleared of dense vegetation leaving a stone built former privy, a wooden shed and the base of a concrete pond. A lean-to two storey extension which probably dated to the mid-20th century and which stood within the footprint of the proposed new extension had already been removed prior to the building recording and watching brief work. Inspection of online street view mapping indicates that this was a lean-to extension with coursed limestone rubble walls and corrugated sheet roofing.

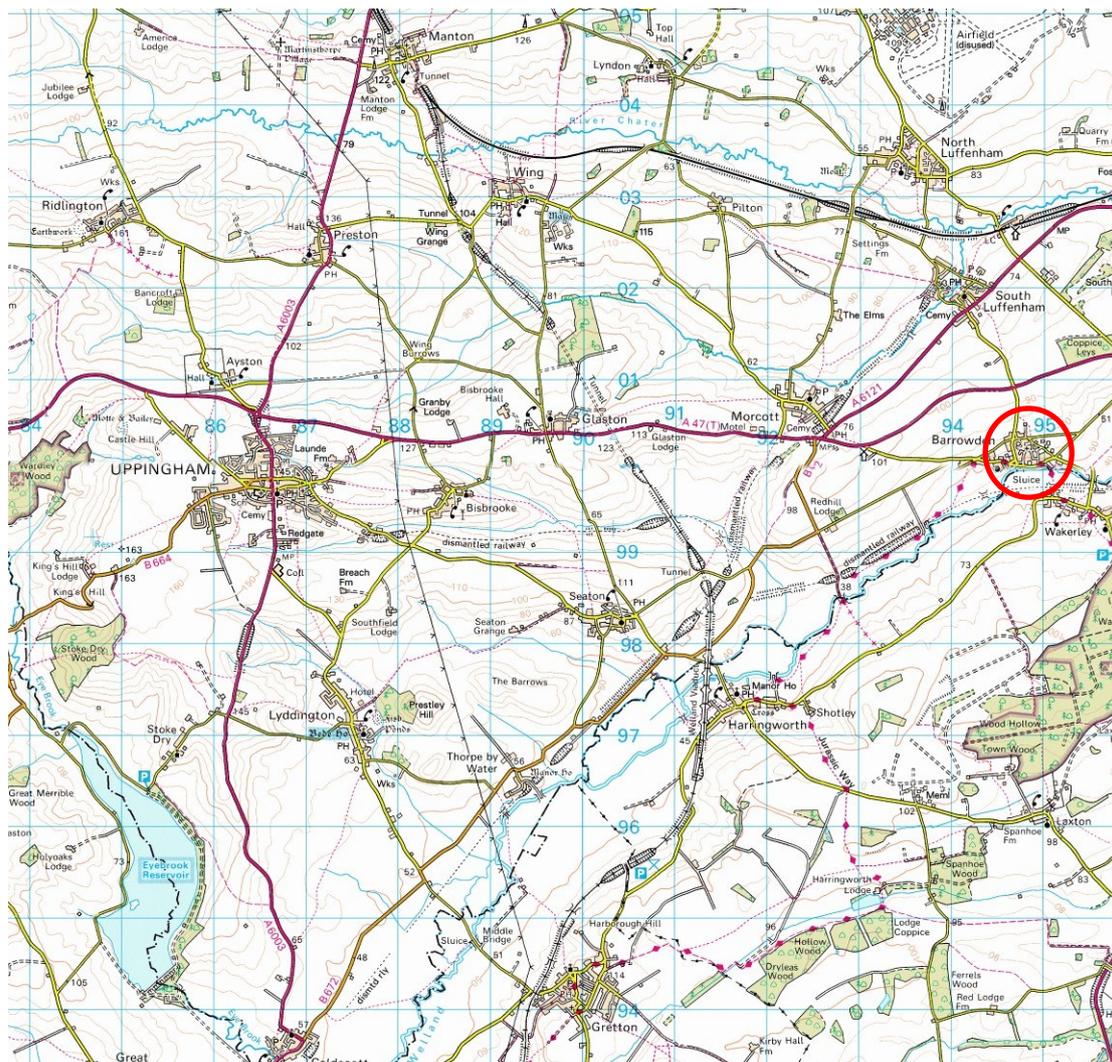


Figure 1: Barrowden location.

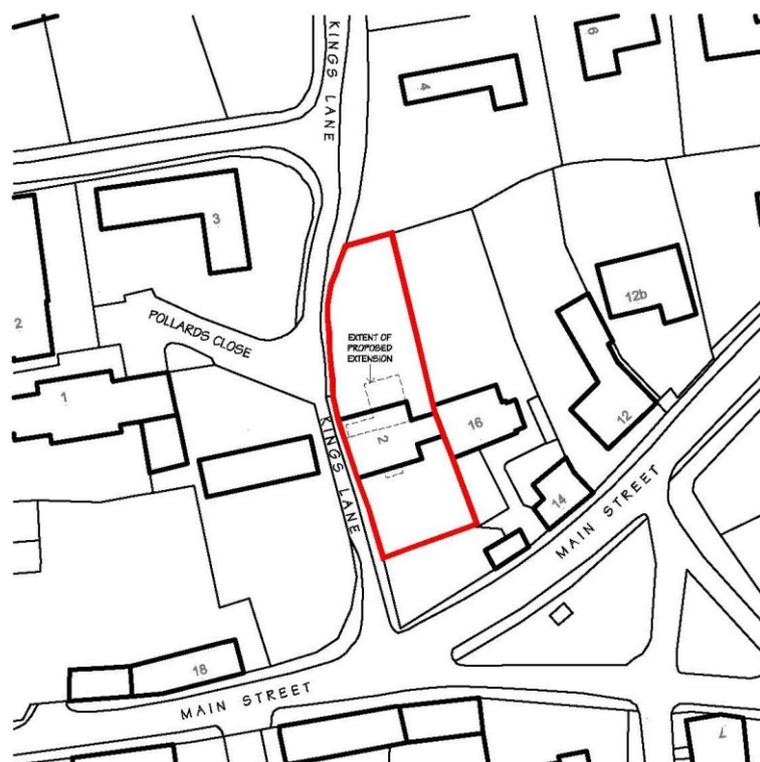


Figure 2: Site location  
Plan supplied by client. Plan shows house still with the old extension in place on the north side



Figure 3: 2 Kings Lane. Looking north along Kings Lane



Figure 4: Rear garden of 2 Kings Lane  
Looking south down Kings Lane

### **Historical Background**

The house is a Grade II listed structure, and a designated heritage asset (NHLE) ref.: 1361435; HER ref.: MLE19513). The listing suggests that it was constructed in the later 18th century which the recent building survey also confirmed (ULAS Report 2017-143). The site lies within the historic core of the village.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of Barrowden published in 1885 shows the outline of the house which appears to have a narrow extension extending northwards along the side of Kings Lane. A rectangular building appears to be located in the garden to the north-east of the house. Another smaller extension to the east appears to project from the rear of the house. The 1952 edition does not seem to show these extensions although by the time of the 1975 edition the house has a wider footprint which presumably shows the recently demolished rear lean-to extension. Although none of the maps are particularly detailed they do indicate that the area to the north of the house has undergone a number of phases of building and alteration.

The most recent phase of building appears to have been the two storey extension which covered all of the north facing elevation of the house. This extended northwards nearly 3m beyond the original back wall of the house and appears to have been terraced into the slope of the garden which rises up to the north.

## Objectives

Within the stated objectives of the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation *for an archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks: 2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, LE15 8EF* (hereafter the WSI) the purpose of the work is to:

- 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

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).

Work followed the ULAS WSI throughout the watching brief. The area within and slightly beyond the limit of the proposed extension was stripped using the client's 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Areas around existing services were avoided. All work was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.

## Results

As noted above, much of the area covered by the proposed new extension had, until recently, been occupied by a large two storey extension (Fig. 5). The old extension appeared to have been laid within the area of a small flat terrace which had been cut into the slope of the land to create a flat ground floor surface with the same height as the ground floors within the main house. Removal of part of the tiled floor of the old extension showed it to be laid directly onto the natural substratum consisting of limestone brash which appeared to have been truncated by levelling.

To the north of the limit of the old extension was a thick overburden of heavily disturbed topsoil and stone rubble which extended up into the garden. The overburden was removed in shallow spits down to the natural substratum or down to any archaeological deposits, should any be present. However, the natural substratum within the stripped area also appeared to have been truncated by earlier levelling activity. The overburden was stripped back to cover the footprint of the proposed extension except for where a modern manhole cover and service pipe had disturbed the central part of the area and which cut deeply into the natural (Fig. 6). A wide drainage channel cut into the natural running along the outside north wall of the old extension was also observed (Fig. 7). At

the western side of the proposed extension the ground was a large dump of stone rubble which was not removed but was sat on the floor level of the old extension.

Because a possible terraced area may be excavated on the north-west side of the new extension it was decided to strip the overburden beyond the footprint of the new extension on the western end. Once again a flat, and probably truncated, undisturbed natural substratum was found directly below the disturbed layer of overburden.

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the area of the proposed extension.

### Discussion

No archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief. The ground to the rear, north, of the house appears to have been remodelled to create a flat terrace either when the lean-to extension was added or at a time when earlier extensions were present. Because no traces of walls belonging to any earlier extensions were observed it seems likely that the most recent extension removed any traces of any earlier buildings.

The present disturbed overburden is a homogenous mix of materials sitting directly on top of the truncated natural. The entire area appears to have been modified by removing topsoil, subsoil and the uppers layer of natural substrata during earlier building work.



Figure 5: Proposed area of new extension  
Yellow line indicates approximate location of demolished extension  
Red circle shows area of modern service disturbance

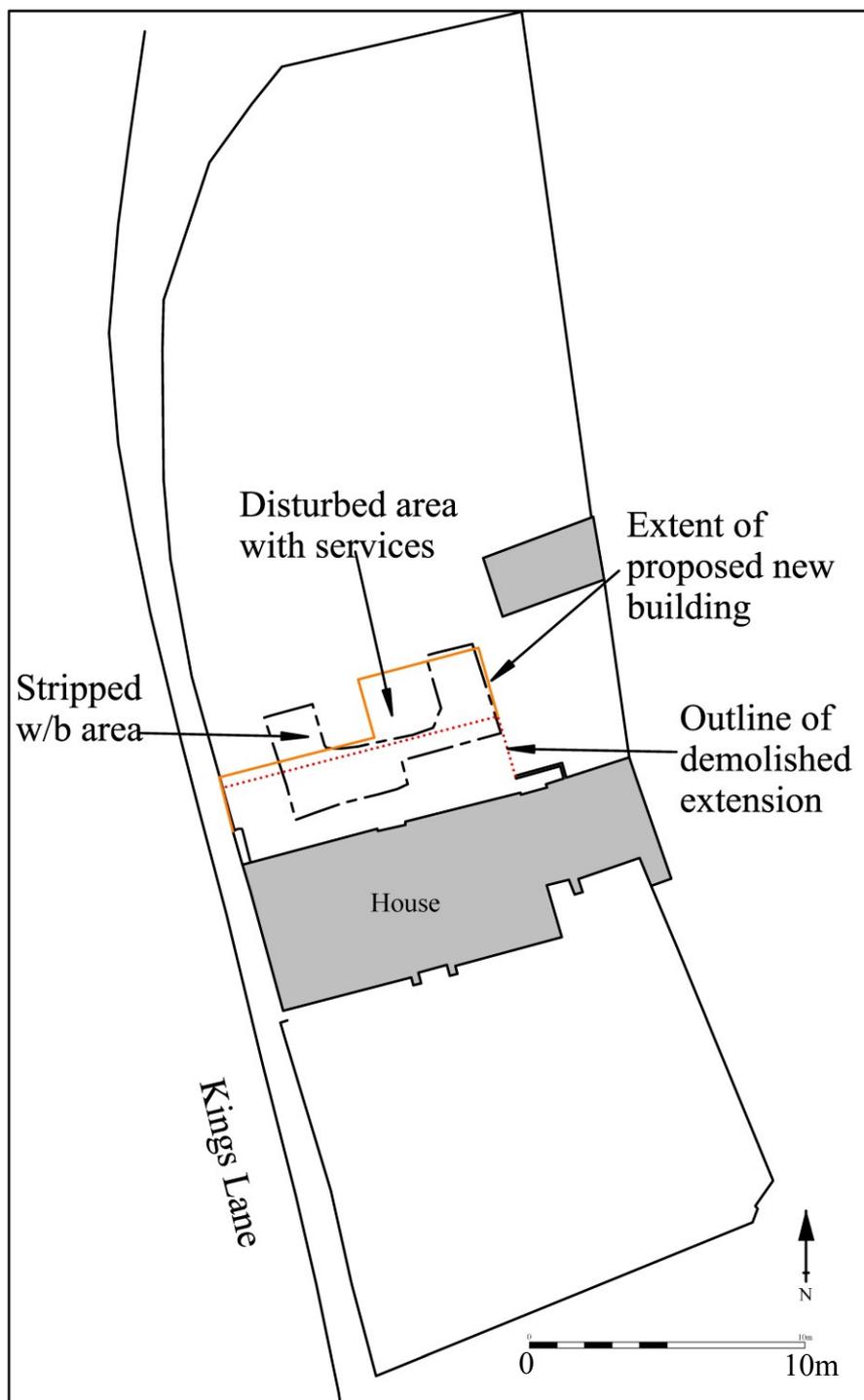


Figure 6: Excavated area  
Red line – old extension limit  
Black dot/dash line – watching brief stripped area  
Orange line – proposed new extension



Figure 7: Stripping in progress

Looking north: Tiled floor of old extension in foreground. Line of modern east to west drain outlined in yellow. 1m scale

### **Archive**

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 ULAS pro-forma watching brief record sheet,

1 photographic record sheet,

16 digital photographs

## **Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

## **Bibliography**

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## Appendix 1 OASIS Information

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-298835		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Attendance and Recording During Groundworks at 2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, Rutland.		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	26-09-2017 - 26-09-2017		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes / Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Watching brief		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None/ Grade II listed building		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None/none		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None / 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>	016/0852/FUL			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, Rutland. LE15 8EF		
	<b>Study Area</b>	634m <sup>2</sup>		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 94955 00091		
	<b>Height OD</b>	55m 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>	V Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	A Hyam		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer / Thomas Wilson Architects		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	NA	RDC MusService	RDCMusService
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>		OAKRM:2017.24	OAKRM:2017.24
	<b>Contents</b>		Photos Survey data	records Field Notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Attendance and Recording During Groundworks at 2 Kings Lane, Barrowden, Rutland.		
	<b>Author</b>	A Hyam		
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