

An Archaeological Evaluation On Land East of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp Leicestershire NGR: SP 68449 93499

Jennifer Browning



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An Archaeological Evaluation

On Land East of Longbreach Road,

Kibworth Beauchamp

Leicestershire

NGR: SP 68449 93499

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For: BDW Trading Ltd

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp from the 7th-8th August 2017 on behalf of BDW Trading Ltd. Seven trenches, totalling 288m², a 4% sample of the site, were excavated to evaluate a field adjoining a recently developed area, where it is proposed to construct 18 new dwellings (Planning Ref: 15/01929/FUL). None of the trenches contained archaeological features other than medieval plough furrows and field drains. The ridge and furrow are still visible as prominent earthworks over the northern part of the field and are an indication of land-use reflecting the distance from the village core during the medieval period. It is likely that the land has been under pasture since Enclosure in the post-medieval period. The site archive will be held by under the Accession Number X.A88 2017.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land east of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp (SP 68449 93499) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). Planning permission has been granted on Appeal for the erection of 18 dwellings and associated access on land east of Longbreach Road, LE8 0RY (Planning Ref 15/01929/FUL). The conditions require a programme of archaeological work, comprising trial trenching, to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and produce a mitigation strategy for the site. The work was carried by ULAS on behalf of the client following consultation with Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the planning authority.

The work was undertaken in order to determine the presence, character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The evaluation results will enable the Planning Archaeologist to recommend a suitable strategy to the Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.



Figure 1: Location of the proposed site Reproduced from Explorer® 1:25 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.© Crown copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

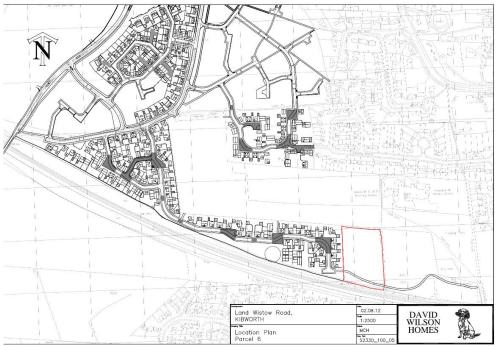


Figure 2: Detail of the area for trenching, provided by client

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located within Kibworth Beauchamp, to the east of a large area of recent housing, some of which is still under construction. It lies east of Longbreach Road and is bounded to the south by the railway line, with open land to the north and east (Figure 2). The land currently consists of rough pasture at a height of approximately 114m aOD.

Planning permission was granted on Appeal for the erection of 18 dwellings and associated access (Planning Ref 15/01929/FUL). The conditions required a programme of archaeological work, comprising trial trenching to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and produce a mitigation strategy for the site.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Blue Lias and Charmouth mudstone overlain with mid Pleistocene Diamicton Till.

Historical and Archaeological Background

There is some evidence for Iron Age and Anglo Saxon activity to the immediate west and north of the application site. LiDaR survey of the area shows ridge and furrow on a north-south alignment (Figure 3). This was present as earthworks within the field.



Figure 3: LiDaR image of the site and surrounding area

Aims and Objectives

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.
- 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 was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context in order to formulate a mitigation strategy to address the impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage.

Draft Research Themes

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to

determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012)

Although there is the low potential for the site the following specific research topics have been identified:

Prehistoric

Characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability (4C). Investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries (4F)

Romano-British

Investigate landscape context of rural settlements (5H)

Early Medieval – High Medieval

Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C) Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E) Investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I)

Methodology

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and a strategy devised by ULAS, set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation: Land east of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp NGR SP 68449 93499* (ULAS 2017).

A total of 5 x 30m long trenches and 2 x 15m trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, providing a 4% sample. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were recorded and then backfilled at the end of the evaluation. The location of the trenches and ridge and furrow were recorded using differential GPS (Topcon HiperV).

The work adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

Results

Seven trenches were excavated in the field; five of which were 30m in length and two were 15m, making a total of 288m² (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Location of excavated trenches

Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of the field. The topsoil consisted of dark brown silty clay loam, with moderate pebbles and ashy patches. It was highly disturbed by roots. The subsoil was mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles and stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The natural subsoil was predominantly light greyish brown sandy clay with chalky stones and pebbles, banded with mid reddish brown sand with very frequent pebbles. Unless otherwise noted, a similar sequence of soils were seen in the rest of the trenches. The trench was crossed at right angles by ridge and furrow on a north-south alignment.

Trench 1	E-W								
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ma	Max. depth (m)	
30	1.6					0.35		0.6	
Interval (m) from W	0	5	10	1	5	20	25	to E end 30	
Topsoil depth	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.	15	0.16	0.20	0.20	
Subsoil depth	0.16	0.25	0.16	0.	13	0.20	0.17	0.12	
Top of Natural substratum	0.36	0.47	0.39	0.1	28	0.36	0.37	0.32	
Base of trench	0.42	0.60	0.42	0.	35	0.50	0.45	0.39	

Table 1: Trench 1 dimensions

Trench 2 was located on the eastern side of the field, on a north-east to south-west orientation, extending diagonally from the corner of the field. Furrows crossed the trench and several narrow field drains were observed within them. The topsoil, subsoil and natural subsoils observed within the trench were similar to those seen in Trench 1.

Trench 2	NE-S	W							
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ma	Max. depth (m)	
29.3	1.6				0.50		0.74		
Interval (m) from NE	0	5	10	1	5	20	25	to SW end 30	
Topsoil depth	0.25	0.28	0.23	0.	28	0.28	0.26	0.30	
Subsoil depth	0.28	0.25	0.30	0.	35	0.32	0.30	0.18	
Top of Natural substratum	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.	63	0.60	0.56	0.48	
Base of trench	0.58	0.60	0.53	0.	68	0.74	0.58	0.50	

Table 2: Trench 2 dimensions

Trench 3 was located in the south-east quadrant of the field, parallel with the eastern hedge line and mostly within a furrow. A patch of disturbed ground was present at the northern end of the trench, which smelt of decaying vegetation. A golf ball was observed within this soil, suggesting that the origins of the feature were modern. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 3	N-S								
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ма	Max. depth (m)	
29	1.6					0.42		0.94	
Interval (m) from NW	0	5	10	15		20	25	to SE end 29	
Topsoil depth	0.24	0.33	0.25	0.	27	0.23	0.25	0.16	
Subsoil depth	-	0.30	0.34	0.	35	0.39	0.60	0.24	
Top of Natural substratum	-	0.63	0.59	0.	62	0.62	0.85	0.40	
Base of trench	0.45	0.63	0.70	0.	62	0.62	0.94	0.42	

Table 3: Trench 3 dimensions

Trench 4 was located across the centre of the field on an east- west alignment. No archaeological features were observed, with the exception of ridge and furrow, which crossed the trench at right angles.

Table 4: Trench 4 dimensions

Trench 4	E-W								
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ma	Max. depth (m)	
29	1.6					0.45		0.90	
Interval (m) from W	0	5	10	1	5	20	25	to E end 29	
Topsoil depth	0.30	0.20	0.23	0.	24	0.24	0.28	0.33	
Subsoil depth	0.18	0.22	0.25	0.	14	0.18	0.20	0.26	
Top of Natural substratum	0.48	0.42	0.48	0.	38	0.42	0.48	0.59	
Base of trench	0.50	0.50	0.54	0.4	45	0.48	0.70	0.90	

Trench 5 was positioned on the west side of the field on a north south alignment, along the top of a ridge. No archaeological features were observed.

Table 5: Trench 5 dimensions

Trench 5	N-S								
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ма	Max. depth (m)	
29.5	1.6					0.50		0.66	
Interval (m) from NW	0	5	10	1	5	20	25	to SE end 30	
Topsoil depth	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.	25	0.30	0.35	0.26	
Subsoil depth	0.22	0.20	0.23	0.	25	0.25	0.20	0.26	
Top of Natural substratum	0.46	0.46	0.47	0.	50	0.56	0.55	0.52	
Base of trench	0.60	0.56	0.50	0.	52	0.66	0.56	0.52	

Trench 6 was one of two shorter trenches, measuring 15m in length. It was located in the centre of the field and contained no archaeological remains with the exception of ridge and furrow.

Trench 6	NE-S	W							
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)			Max. depth (m)	
15	1.6					0.40		0.84	
Interval (m) from NW	0	5	10	1	5	20	25	to SE end 30	
Topsoil depth	0.32	0.26	0.35	0.	25				
Subsoil depth	0.22	0.28	0.28	-	-				
Top of Natural substratum	0.54	0.54	0.63	-	-				
Base of trench	0.60	0.84	0.70	0.	40				

Table 6: Trench 6 dimensions

Trench 7 was positioned at the southern end of the field, towards the eastern side. The natural subsoil was punctuated with modern disturbance and root damage, consisting of pressed in and compacted turf, which overlay the natural subsoil. It seems apparent that this part of the field has been disturbed in recent times.

Table 7	7:]	French	7	dimensions
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Trench 7	E-W							
Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Ма	x. depth (m)
14	1.6				0.50			0.74
Interval (m) from W	0	5	10	1	4			to E end
Topsoil depth	0.40	0.30	0.34	0.	30			
Subsoil depth	0.30	-	0.20	0.	20			
Top of Natural substratum	0.70	-	0.54	0.	50			
Base of trench	0.74	0.50	0.56	0.	56			

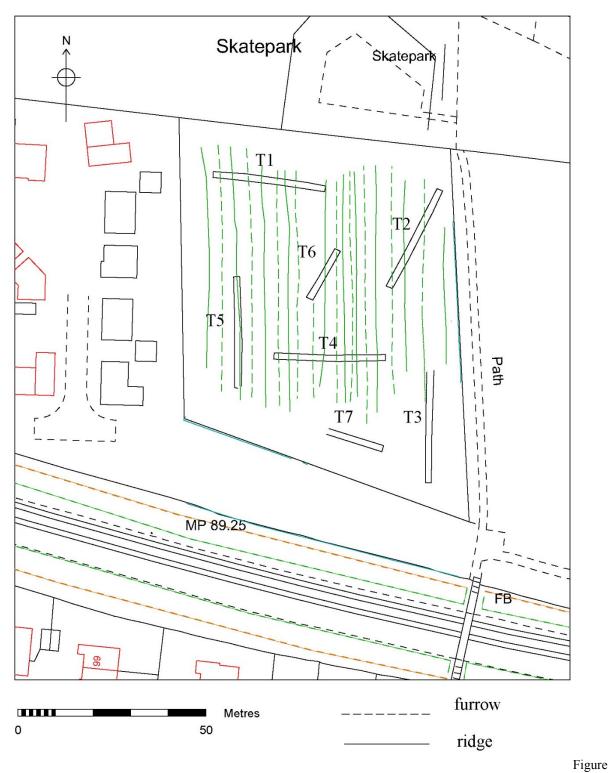




Conclusion

No earth-fast archaeological features were identified during the trial trenching. However, a number of prominent ridge and furrow earthworks were seen on a north-south alignment. Some variation in subsoil and natural subsoil depths were noted across the site in many cases caused by furrows intruding into the natural. Where visible, the tops of the ridges and the bases of the furrows were recorded using differential GPS. The southern end of the field appears to have been disturbed in recent times. This was indicated not only by modern disturbance in the base of trenches 3 and 7 but also by the loss of definition in the ridge and furrow earthworks at this end of the field. The LiDaR survey supports this interpretation (Figure 3), showing a diagonal border (northeast to southwest) across the southern end of the site.

Ridge and furrow are the earthwork remains of open field strip farming, which was widespread in the medieval period. Ploughing was carried out with a coulter, mouldboard and share, which required the use of a team of oxen or horses. The coulter and the share sliced the earth and the mouldboard turned the sod. On the return up the field, the sod removed from the furrow rested against the first. This process was repeated, round and round the ridge, creating an area suitable for planting with drainage either side. A new furrow would then be cut at a distance from the first. Subsequent ploughing in the same way eventually formed the earthworks (Astill 1988, 70), which became fossilized in the landscape following Enclosure, when tracts of land were turned over to pasture. Although still not uncommon, especially in the Midlands, they are a diminishing resource.



12: Survey of ridge and furrow in relation to the excavated trenches

Archive

The site archive is currently held with ULAS but will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums under the Accession Number: X.A88 2017.

The site archive consists of: 1 x Unbound A4 copy of this report 7 x A4 Trench recording sheets 1 x A4 Photo record sheet A4 Colour digital contact print, 1 CD of digital photos

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Appendix 1).

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Claire LaCombe and Jennifer Browning of ULAS. Vicki Score managed the project. Sophie Clark (Planning Archaeologist) monitored the work on behalf of the Planning Authority. We would also like to thank Paul of Planters and David Wilson Homes Ltd for their assistance with this project.

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11/08/2017

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ULAS 2017 Written scheme of investigation for evaluation. Location: Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 68449 93499) ULAS Specification 17-269.

Sources

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

	Oasis No	universi1-290434		
PROJECT DETAILS	Project Name	An Archaeologica	al Evaluation	
		Land east of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp,		
		Leicestershire (NGR SP68449 93499)		
	Start/end dates of field	07/07/2017 - 08/07/2017		
	work			
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Field/wasteland None		
	Monument Type/Period Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning	Planning Condition.		
	Process	r mining condition.		
	Planning Ref.	Planning Ref 15/01929/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Off Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leics. LE8		
		ORY		
	Study Area	0.7ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 68449 93499		
	Height OD	114m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority. Leicestershire County Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project	Jennifer Browning		
	Director/Supervisor			
	Sponsor/Funding Body	BDW Trading Ltd Physical		Danan
PROJECT ARCHIVE	Recipient	Leicestershire	Digital Leicestershire	Paper Leicestershire Museums
	Keeipient	Museums	Museums	Leicestersmite Waseums
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA88 2017	XA88 2017	XA88 2017
	Contents	None	Photos	Evaluation records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Туре	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on		
		Land east of Longbreach Road, Kibworth Beauchamp,		
		Leics		
	Author	Browning, J.		
	Other bibliographic	ULAS Report No 2017-122		
	details	07/09/2017 09/09/2017		
	Date Publisher/Place	07/08/2017 – 08/08/2017 University of Leicester Archaeological Services /		
	r ublisher/r lace	University of Leicester		
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