


**Archaeological Watching Brief on Land
Adjacent to 26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland,
(SK 923 146)**

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By Greg Farnworth-Jones

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1 Summary

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to 26 Church Lane on the 27th February 2006. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr Singh in advance of residential development. The work involved observing foundation trenches for any signs of archaeological activity. The results of this investigation were negative.

2. Introduction

2.1 This document constitutes the archaeological assessment to be carried out on land adjacent to 26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland (SK 923 146). The archaeological assessment was being undertaken on behalf of Mr Singh by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

2.2 Mr Singh proposes to build a residential development on c.887 sq m of land adjacent to 26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland (SK 923 146). The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological watching brief assessment of the site area be carried out during the ground works to fulfil

2.3 The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, Mr Singh. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 27th of February 2006. The work involved archaeological observation during excavation of foundation trenches for the residential development.

3. Site Background

3.1 The site is within the village centre of Greetham, situated at NGR SK 923 146, at a height of c. 115m OD. It is on the northern/eastern side of Church Lane, to the west of no. 26.

3.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone. The trial trenching confirmed this but also revealed pockets of clay within the limestone.

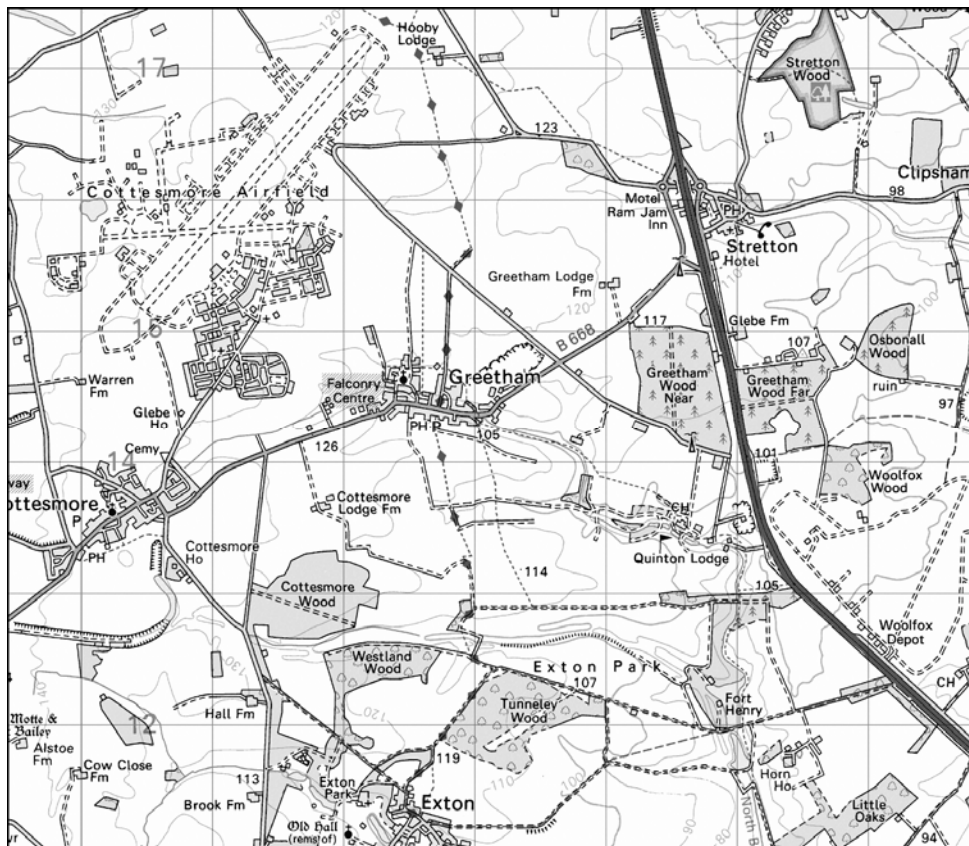


Fig. 1 Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger 130 Grantham area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1994. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is immediately adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 179), which lies to the north: earthworks of a medieval manor house. In addition, various medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity. These include the church (SMR Ref. No 91SW A) and a medieval cauldron and spindle whorl (91SW M). Prehistoric remains have also been recorded in the vicinity; animal/human bones and Iron Age pottery were found at 32, Church Lane (91SW D), and further Iron Age pottery was also discovered close by (91SW BB).

4.2 No previous work has been conducted on the proposed development site, but the earthworks to the north (the Scheduled Ancient Monument) have been surveyed, and a watching brief was carried out at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in 2001, by JSAC. The only remains recorded were disarticulated bones found underneath the vestry floor.

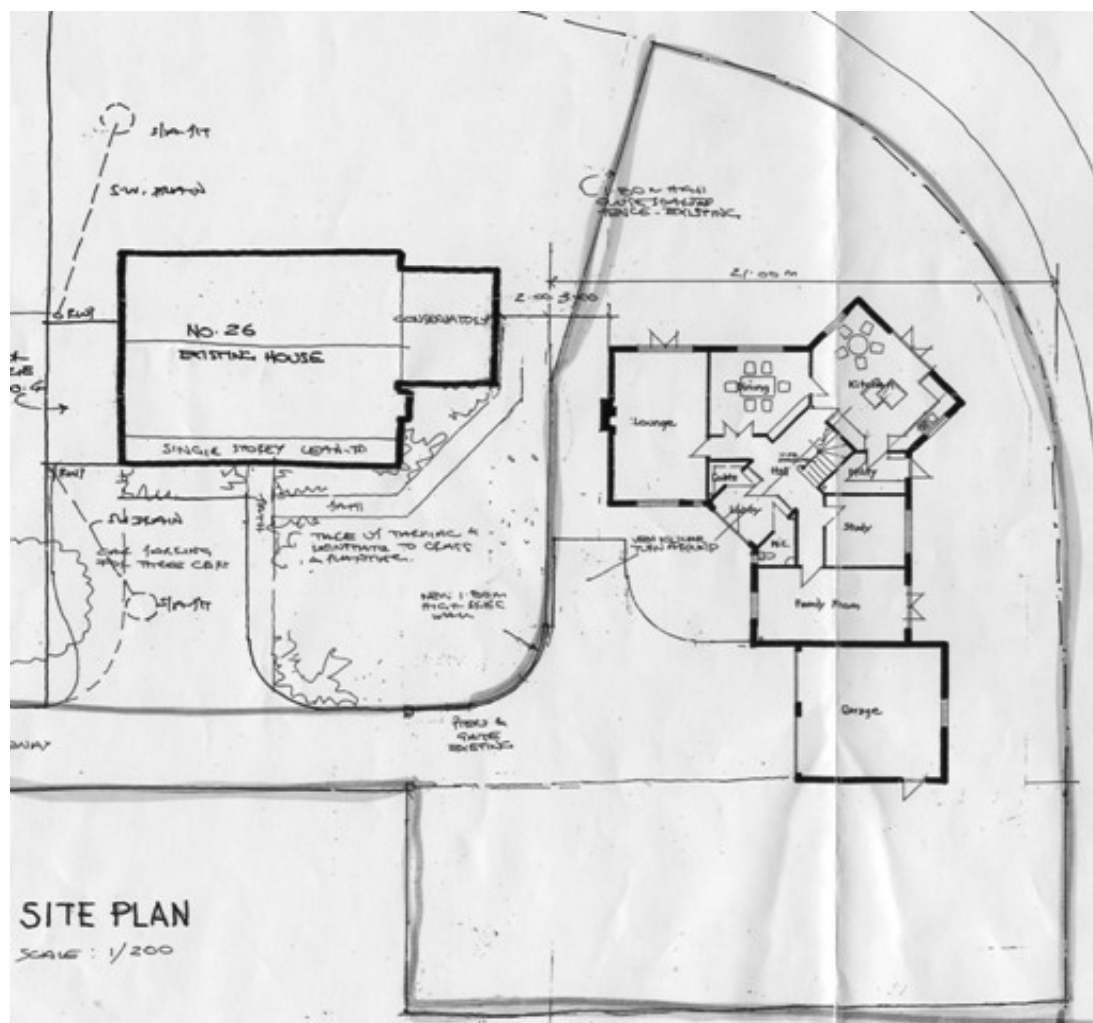


Fig. 2 Site Plans Produced by the Developer (North Bottom of Page).

5. Methodology

5.1 All archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

5.2 The archaeological watching brief carried out on land adjacent to 26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland (SK 923 146), involved control and supervision of ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

5.3 The main objectives of the watching brief, through archaeological supervision of existing overburden stripping and ground works by the client's contractors were:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

5.4 Any archaeological deposits located were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located were hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

5.5 Archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was paid to the potential for buried palaeosoils and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

5.6 All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

6. Results

6.1 Initial machining revealed the topsoil which consisted of a dark grey loam, with occasional rounded stones to a depth of c. 0.4m. Minor root disturbance was also observed. Further machining revealed to a depth of 0.4m the subsoil, which consisted of mid brown silt clay with occasional, rounded stones. The natural substratum consisted of slightly gravelly yellow clay.

6.2 The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.

6.3 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations.

7. Conclusion

7.1 No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

7.2 The absence of archaeological features during the archaeological watching brief carried out on land adjacent to 26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland (SK 923 146), suggests that the site was most likely situated just outside of the medieval village core and not as previously suspected within it. It is therefore, most likely that the application area saw only use as agricultural or horticultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

7.3 During archaeological supervision of the ground works involving existing overburden stripping and foundation trench excavation, no archaeological deposits,

finds or features were encountered. The results of the archaeological watching brief were therefore negative.

8. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs Singh, for their assistance and co-operation. James Meek who managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Bibliography

Clark, R., 2006 *Design Specification for an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to 26, Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland*

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10. Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

*26 Church Lane, Greetham, Rutland,
(SK 923 146)*

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

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20/2/06