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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land to the rear of 41 Main Street,
Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR**

NGR: SP 68117 94613

Ian Reeds



ULAS Report No 2019-105

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Site Name: 41 Main St, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR

Grid Ref: SP 68117 94613

Author: Ian Reeds

Client: Witcombe Developments Ltd

Planning Ref. 18/2167/FUL, Condition 12

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University of Leicester, Archaeological Services,
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 364248		
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation on land to the rear of 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR		
	Start/end dates	07-08-2019 / 07-08-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Brownfield		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	18/2167/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR		
	Study Area	1513m ²		
	Site Coordinates	SP 68201 94539		
	Height OD	125m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Landowner/Developer		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Ian Reeds		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Witcombe Developments Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	None	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A64.2019	X.A64.2019
	Contents	None	Photographs, text,	Report/ Record/ Sheets Photo Trench
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An archaeological field evaluation on to the rear of 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR.

Ian Reeds

Summary

This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0NR, (NGR: SP 68117 94613)), in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

The development site consists of 1 parcel of land to the rear of 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire. The plot site measures 1513m², and stands at approximately c.125m OD. Although now levelled and grassed over, the site was formally a pig farm, and associated buildings occupied much of the site, as can be seen in an aerial photograph dated c. 1960. The site is close to a number of pottery finds and lies within the historic core of Kibworth Harcourt. A single 22m trench was excavated, which proved negative for archaeological features.

The report will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museums under accession number X.A64 2019

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for Witcombe Developments Ltd.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Witcombe Developments Ltd. to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 68117 94613; Fig. 1). The work was carried out on 7th August 2019.

The work was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018). Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a new dwelling (18/2167/FUL). Initially the Planning Archaeologist requested a Strip Map and Sample Excavation, but subsequently agreed to the examination by a single trench in the first instance.

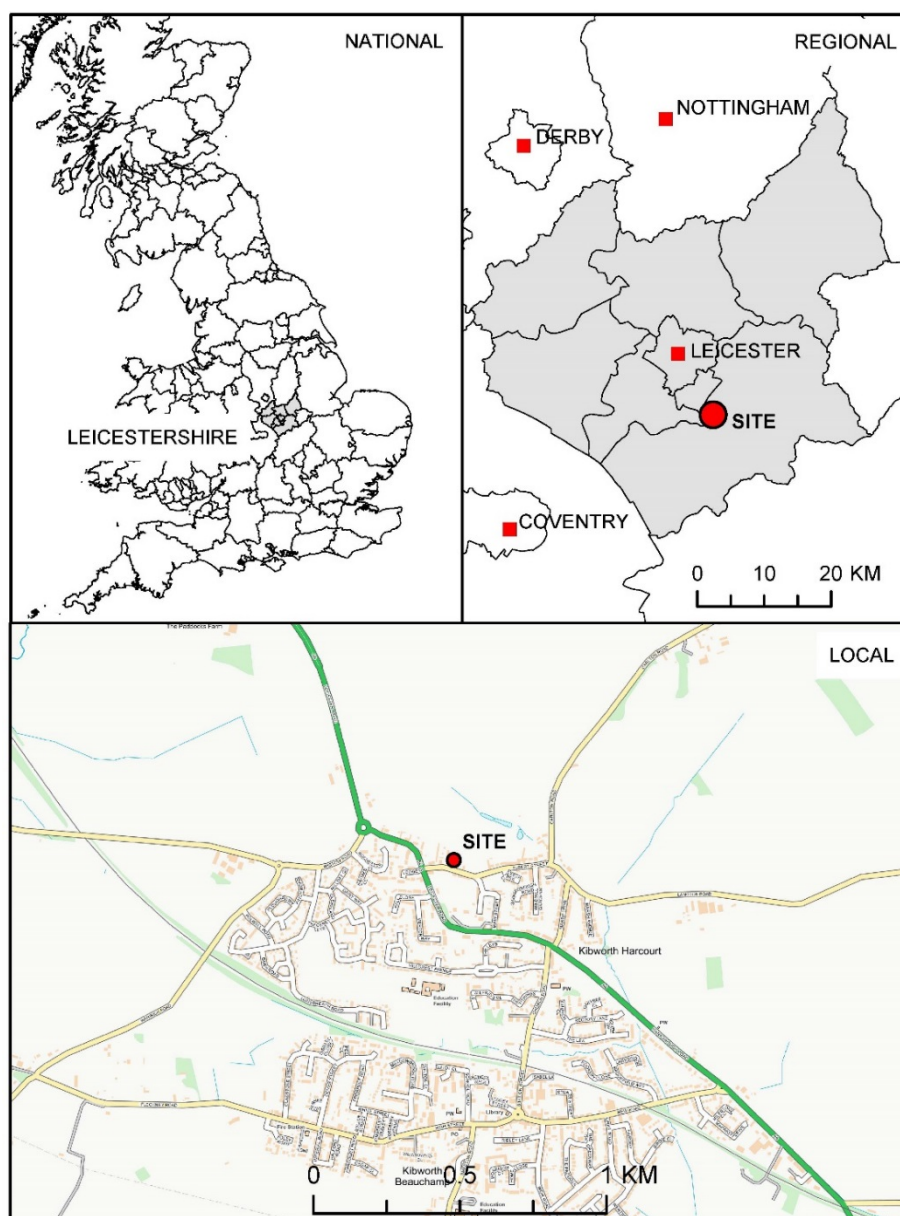


Figure 1: Site Location

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Lidar source Environment Agency (2019)*

Location and Geology

The application site lies to the north-west of the village, on the north side of Main Street, to the rear of 41 Main Street (Fig. 3). The land is a brownfield site, levelled and grassed over to the north, but with a substantial concrete hard standing area, with wooden stables on the southern half. The original farm buildings associated with the pig farm have been demolished in the past and they would have occupied much of the proposed development area of the site (Fig. 2).

The site lies on relatively flat land, measures *c.* 1513m² and has been made up with a layer of topsoil and rubble. To the north and east the site drops away to pasture fields. To the south is the residential dwelling of 41 Main Street, to the west are neighbouring dwellings. It lies approximately *c.* 125m OD. The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of

the area as Rhaetian Age Blue Lias Formation and Charmaouth Mudstone Formation. There are superficial deposits of Diamicton till.

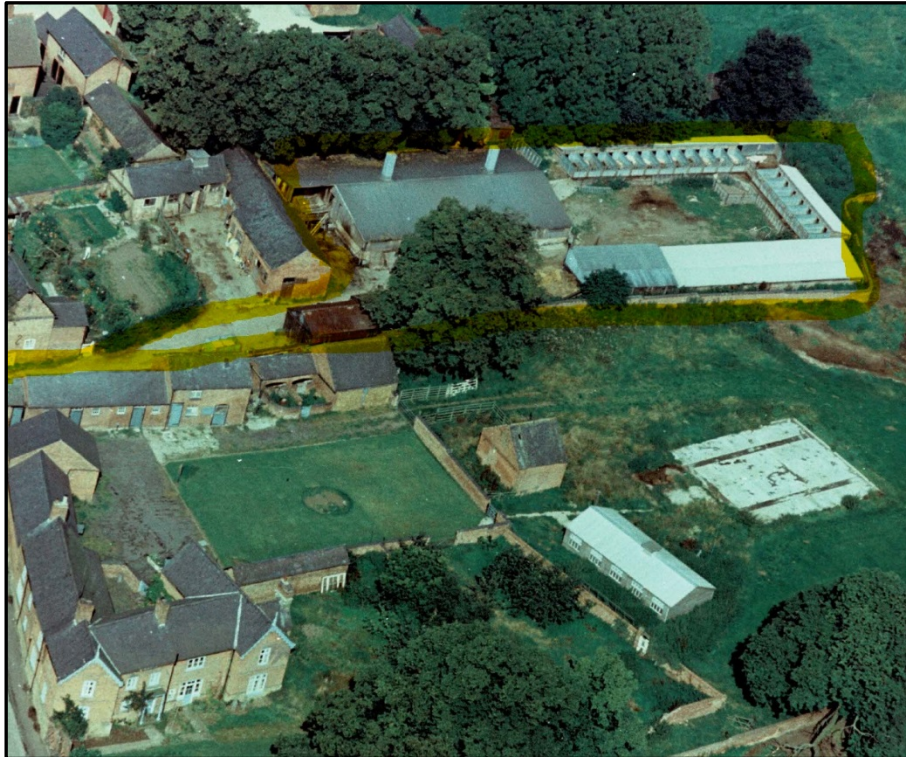


Figure 2: Site utilisation c.1960



Figure 3: Detailed site location

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within the historic core of the medieval village of Kibworth Harcourt. The early Ordnance Survey maps show various buildings (presumably farm barns and similar) occupying the site from 1886, with the most dense use of the site in the 1974 edition (as shown in a 1960s aerial photo, provided by client, see fig.2). These buildings may have had a significant impact on any underlying archaeological deposits.

The place-name of Kibworth Harcourt is derived from the Old English ‘Worthing’ meaning ‘enclosure’ and the personal name of the local head man called ‘Cybba’ (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>) The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists 72 inhabitants, 28 from Kibworth Harcourt and 42 in Kibworth Beauchamp.

Before the Norman Conquest the land had been held by Aelric the son of Meriet. After the conquest of 1066 it passed to Norman lord Robert de Vescy. Kibworth Harcourt was a three-field village in the late 13th century. And these fields existed until the township was enclosed under an Act of 1779. The three fields were the east field (sometimes called Howe Field), the North Field and the West Field (Carrs Field).

An assessment of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) in January 2019 (by Simon Loaring of Leicestershire County Council), showed that the site lies within Kibworth Harcourt conservation area (**HER Ref: DLE610**) and the Historic settlement core of Kibworth Harcourt (**HER Ref: MLE16877**). It is adjacent to a Roman pottery find spot (**HER Ref: MLE19264**) a Saxo-Norman pottery find spot (**HER Ref: MLE19275**), a medieval pottery find spot (**HER Ref: MLE1999**) and a post medieval pottery find spot (**HER Ref: MLE2000**). Documentary and map evidence indicates that this part of the village was in probability utilised from the earliest establishment of the settlement (c. 9th-10th century AD).

Archaeological Objectives

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within undisturbed parts of the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Research Objectives

Initial Research objectives were derived from East Midlands Heritage research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012) and include the following aims:

- 6.4 Early medieval rural settlement patterns.
- 6.7 The agricultural economy and rural landscape.
- 7.2 High Medieval rural settlement
- 7.7 Agrarian landscape and food producing economy.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for exploratory trial trenching* prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (2019). The work was monitored by the client (Witcombe Developments Ltd) and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number was obtained and used to identify all records and artefacts. Prior to machining of trenches, general photographs were taken of the site and the proposed area was surveyed with a CAT scan to locate buried services.

One 22m x 1.50m trench was positioned over the proposed development area (Fig. 6). Due to constraints encountered on the ground, the trench position had to be moved 12m to the north from its original position. This was because of an area of hard standing tarmac and concrete that was still covering part of the proposed development area. There were also standing wooden stables still in position on the proposed development area. A wire fence cut through the site to the north, running east to west. This was outside the proposed build area, but did restrict the length of Trench 1 to 22m from the proposed 25m. The position of the trench took in as much of the proposed development as was possible and immediately adjacent to it to account for new services (Figs 4-6). It was not possible to investigate under the hard standing area; but visual examination did show a number of pre-existing services present such as water supply to the stables and a large drain manhole.

The trenching was carried out with a 5tonne digger fitted with a 1.5m flat bladed ditching bucket. This was supplied by the client Witcombe Developments Ltd.

The trench was excavated in spits down to the level of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. Once recorded the trench was backfilled by machine



Figure 4: Constraints of trenching area



Figure 5: Constraints of trenching area

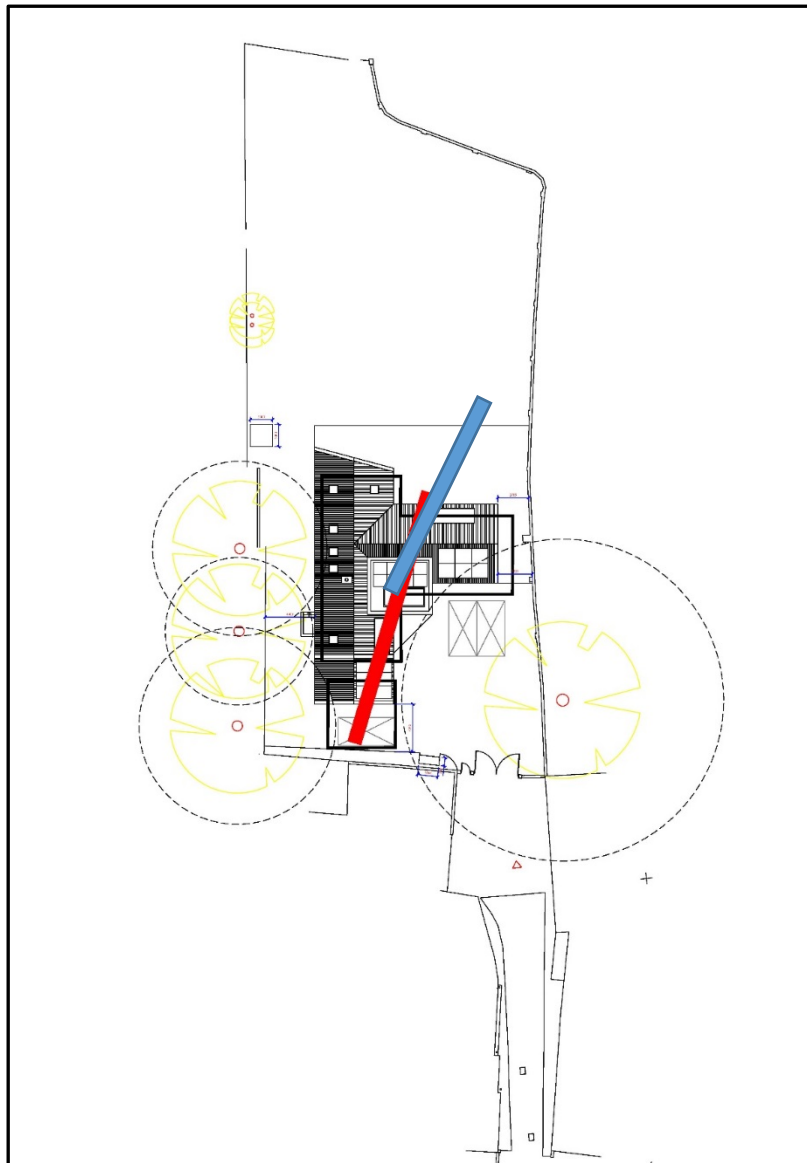


Figure 6: Trench plan over planned development. Red = proposed trench, Blue = actual trench

Results

The sequence of soils across the development site consisted of a dark grey sandy loam topsoil, with well-rounded small gravels, overlying mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil, with gravels. This overlay the natural sub-stratum; with grey clay to the south, and pockets of silty sand and gravel to the north (Figs 7-8). The upper levels of the topsoil contained demolition materials such as broken brick, but this soon gave way to a cleaner topsoil. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.80m in the northern end to confirm natural had been reached, rising to the south.

Interval	(N)0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m	18m	21m	End(S)
Topsoil depth	0.46	0.40	0.32	truncation	0.30	0.22	0.15	0.14	0.14
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.13	0.20	truncation	0	0	0	0	0
Top of Natural	0.53	0.53	0.63	truncation	0.39	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27
Base of Trench	0.80	0.80	0.60	0.70	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.50

Table 1: trench 1 results

Modern drainage was seen at a depth of 0.40m running diagonally east to west and into a large drainage system that could be seen in the east section of the trench (Fig. 9). The subsoils ran out at around 12m from the north end and this was replaced with a thin band of stones and modern material. This was presumably a result of erosion by former farming activity churning up the underlying grey clay natural.



Figure 7: Trench 1 looking north east



Figure 8: Trench 1 looking south west



Figure 9: Modern drain at 9m in east section of trench 1

Discussion and Conclusion

The proposed development area at 41 Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt had some potential for archaeological remains, given its proximity to the historic core of Kibworth Harcourt, and a number of pottery finds from close by that are noted on the Historic Environment Records.

Trench 1 revealed a deep layer of topsoil mixed with building debris that created a level area following the demolition of farm buildings. The trench was truncated by a modern (but disused) drainage system that was presumably associated with the sites former use as a pig farm; with the brick built construction for it cutting well below the depth of the trench. At the south end of the trench the sub-soil had been eroded down to natural, and a layer of modern crushed building material and stone was seen. This was presumably the heavily-used central area of the farm, where animals and farm traffic would have churned up the surface on a regular basis. There was no access to the southern part of the site due to buildings and a hard standing area.

There was no evidence of archaeological features in Trench 1, and so as such it will not contribute towards the Regional Research Objectives.

Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A64 2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No 2019-105)
- 1 Trench recording sheet
- 1 Photo record sheet
- 1 contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD of digital photographs

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Jamie Witcombe of Witcombe Developments Ltd for his co-operation with this project. Ian Reeds of ULAS carried out the trial trenching and the project was managed by Richard Buckley. The excavator was provided by Witcombe Developments Ltd and operated by Tom.

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Ian Reeds
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: lh90@le.ac.uk
11/01/2019



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
UK

Directors

Dr Richard Buckley OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

e: rjb16@le.ac.uk

t: +44 (0)116 252 2848

f: +44 (0)116 252 2614

e: ulas@le.ac.uk

