



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Land South-East of Keepers Cottage,
Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire.**

CV13 0AJ

NGR: SK 41710 00260

Jamie Patrick



ULAS Report No 2022-030

©2022

Site Name: Land South-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane
Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire. CV13 0AJ

Grid Ref: SK 44170 00260

Author: Jamie Patrick

Client: Pat Hutchinson

Planning Ref: 21/00095/FUL

ULAS Job No: 21-314

ULAS Report Number: 2022-030

Accession Number: X.A26.2022

ReportTemplate1_WB_2022

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date	Notes
2022-030_Draft	Vicki Score	28/0/2022	Draft
2022-030_V1	Vicki Score	10/3/2022	Updated Plan
2922-030_Final	Vicki Score	28/03/2022	Undrafted final version

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party and project for which it has been commissioned and should not be relied upon or used by any other person/party or for any other project without the written consent of ULAS. No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent. While every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, however, ULAS cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies contained within this report

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

© ULAS 2022

OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 504864		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land South-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire.		
	Start/end dates	23 rd of February 2022		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Watching brief		
	Site Status	Within medieval/post-med village core of Sutton Cheney		
	Current Land Use	Pastoral Land		
	Monument Type/Period	none		
	Significant Finds/Period	none		
	Reason for Investigation	Planning regulation		
	Position in the Planning Process	Condition		
Planning Ref.	21/00095/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Land South-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire, CV13 0AJ		
	Study Area			
	Site Coordinates	TF 50063 30643		
	Height OD	95 - 118m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	LCC Planning		
	Project Design Originator	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Jamie Patrick		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Pat Hutchinson		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient		Leicestershire county council museums	Leicestershire county council museums
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A26.2022	X.A26.2022
	Contents	None	Photographs	Watching brief form, Report
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPH Y	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land South-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire.		
	Author	J. Patrick		
	Other bibliographic details	University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. 2022-030		
	Date	2022		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Location, Topography & Geology	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Objectives	3
Research Objectives.....	3
Methodology	4
Monitoring	4
Results.....	6
Discussion and Conclusions	8
Archive and Publication.....	8
Acknowledgements.....	8
Bibliography	9

Figures

Figure 1: Location of site within the UK and locally.	2
Figure 2: Location of Shepherd huts.....	5
Figure 3: Excavation of wheel stand pits.....	5
Figure 4: Detailed location plan showing proposals (provided by client).	6
Figure 5: Part of old field boundary ditch, with isolated tree looking south- west. Car park area.	7
Figure 6: Extract from 1885 first edition Ordnance survey map showing old field boundary ditch identified, highlighted in blue.....	7

An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land South-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire. CV13 0AJ

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land of south-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire, CV13 0AJ.. The work was undertaken on the 23rd of February 2022 on behalf of Pat Hutchinson in advance of the siting of two Shepherd Huts with access road, parking and services.

The two Shepherd huts covered a combined area of 12m x 4.50m. The impact into the top soils and underlying strata was minimal. A pair of wheel stand supportive pads for each hut required the excavation of four one metre square pits to a depth of up to 0.50m. Exposure of natural substrata was only reached in one of pits with the remainder not getting below the depth of the subsoil. In addition, three 2m x 1m square pits associated with car parking & turning were excavated to the same depth. Natural sub-strata was identified in all three pits. . With the exception of a post-medieval field boundary ditch which had some glass and modern pottery within it, no archaeological remains were revealed.

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums under the accession number X.A26.2022

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, (MHCLG 2021) this document forms the report for an archaeological watching brief on land of south-east of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire, CV13 0AJ.

The work was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Pat Hutchinson.

Planning Permission has been granted for the siting of two Shepherd Huts for tourism purposes (Planning Ref: 21/00095/FUL), and associated services. The Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire therefore requested attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief) during any groundworks for the proposed development in order to record any archaeological remains that may be present and mitigate the impacts of the scheme.

Location, Topography & Geology

Sutton Cheney is a small village approximately 10km north-east of Nuneaton and 17km south-west of Leicester. The site is an irregular shaped area approximately 0.125ha in size bounded by hedgerows with an existing gated field access opposite the access into Hall Farm opposite the site. The development area is located in the north-eastern part of a large pastoral field. It is located along Twenty Acre Lane on the southern fringe of Sutton Cheney, immediately to the south-east of Keepers Cottage, opposing Hall Farm (Fig. 1 & 2).

The site is accessed via an existing gate, from Twenty Acre Lane opposite the entrance to Hall Farm. It is located on a gentle slope and lies between 118m and 95m above OD (Figs 1 and 2).

The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the area as sedimentary bedrock consisting of Triassic Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. This is overlain by superficial deposits of till – diamicton formed in the Quaternary Period.

The soilscape website indicates that the soils, will be slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 18 <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscape/>).



Figure 1: Location of site within the UK and locally.

Historical and Archaeological Background

A heritage impact assessment has been undertaken for the site (Sutton 2021). This identified that the site is located within a rich and undisturbed wider archaeological landscape and that there is the potential of finding prehistoric and Roman activity, deposits and stray finds. The Leicestershire and Rutland HER indicates that the site is located within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Sutton Cheney village (MLE3253) and that there are well preserved medieval village earthworks located to the east (MLE3232).

The site is located within the Registered Battlefield Area – Battle of Bosworth Field 1485 and almost the whole of Sutton Cheney village has been designated as a Conservation Area which contains several listed buildings. The site, however, is located just outside of the Conservation Area boundary and the mid-19th century Keepers Cottage on Twenty Acres Lane is of local value.

Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work are:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Objectives

The site had the potential to add to research objectives mainly from the Medieval, and post-medieval/modern periods, identified within *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13*, (ed. Cooper 2006), and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (ed. Knight et al 2012), and updated here: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>:

The presence of probable medieval earthworks, the site's location in the historic settlement core of medieval and post-medieval Sutton Cheney village and presence in the Registered Battlefield Area – Battle of Bosworth Field 1485 indicates a potential for archaeology relating to these periods. There is therefore potential for remains that could contribute to the following Research Objectives:

Medieval

- 6J Update and expand East Midlands Anglo-Saxon Pottery Project.
- 7E Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.
- 7H Investigate the location and character of medieval battlefields.
- 7I Investigate development of the open-field system and woodland management.

Post-Medieval

- 8A Identify and research the landless urban and rural poor.
- 8C Establish a typology of regional building traditions.
- 8E Identify agricultural improvements of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries
- 8I Develop further the study of ceramic assemblages

Methodology

All work followed the procedures set out in the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the project (ULAS 2022).

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (updated 2020) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (updated 2021). The accession number OAKRM2021.25 was used to identify all records and artefacts.

Fieldwork was carried out by ULAS on the 23/2/2022 and was followed by post-excavation and reporting.

Date	Site Staff	Times	Description
23/2/22	JRP	9:00-12:00	Site work
23/2/22	JRP	½ day	Post-excavation archive, oasis
24/2/22	JRP	1 day	Post-excavation & Report

Excavation was carried out by the client's contractor, using machines provided and operated by the contractor. Due to restriction on access, the excavator used was a 3T mini digger, fitted with a 1.0m ditching bucket and rubber caterpillar tracks. Spoil was removed from the excavation area and placed in heaps nearby (Fig 3).

Monitoring

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken with the project manager, to ensure that project targets were met and professional standards maintained. Provision was made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Archaeology and the Client, if required.



Figure 2: Location of Shepherd huts



Figure 3: Excavation of wheel stand pits

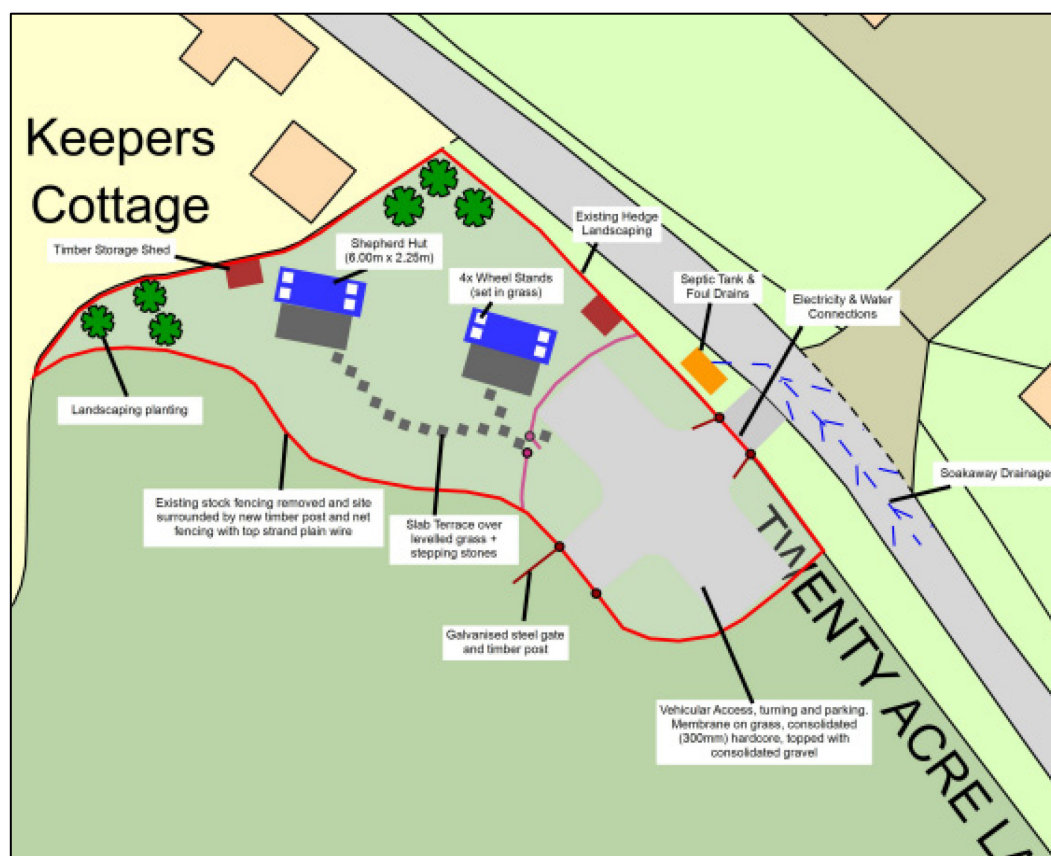


Figure 4: Detailed location plan showing proposals (provided by client).

Results

The development area covered 0.125ha and was located at the north-eastern part of a large pastoral field covering approximately 2.7 ha. The area covered by each shepherd hut was 6m by 2.25m. The total removal of overburden amounted to approximately 10m².

Two pairs of 1m² pits was excavated for wheel stand support pads for both shepherd huts. Each pit was excavated to a depth of up to 0.50m. The topsoil comprised of a dark yellowish brown friable sandy silt to depth of 0.40m. Subsoil was encountered in all four pits which consisted of a mid-yellowish brown loose sandy silt. Only a single pit at the south end revealed natural geology which consisted of a light yellow brown loose sand with moderate sub-rounded pebbles. No archaeological remains were visible, with an absence of any finds.

The short access road from the farm gate next to Twenty Acre Lane, did not require monitoring due to a membrane with overlying hard-core and gravel placed over the grass. However a further three 2m by 1m square pits were excavated to the same depth at the car parking and turning area for more substantial hardstanding areas. All three reached natural geology but no archaeological remains were identified. A modern field boundary ditch was exposed which contained glass.



Figure 5: Part of old field boundary ditch, with isolated tree looking south- west. Car park area.

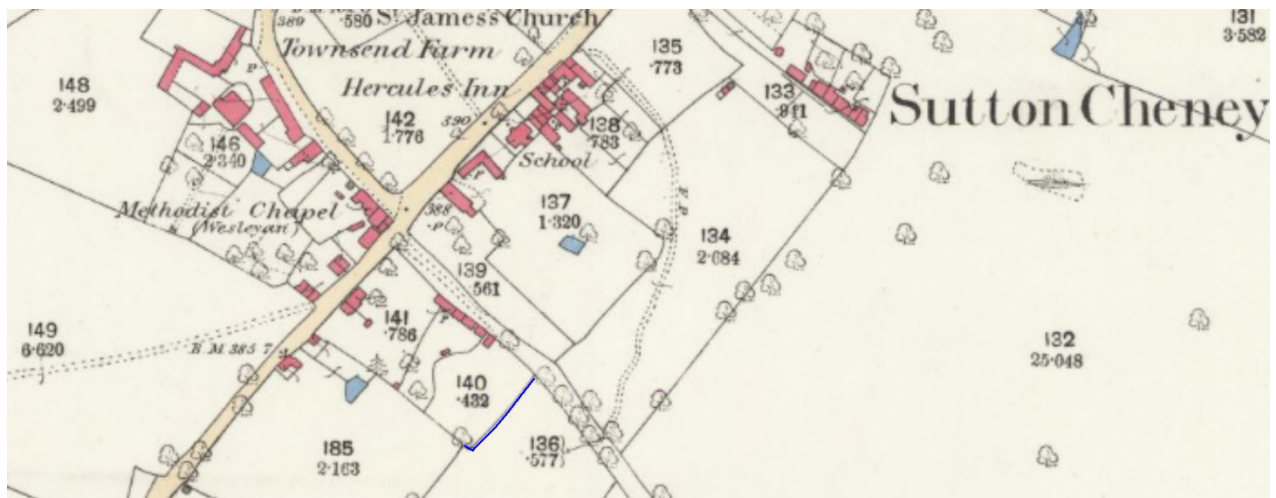


Figure 6: Extract from 1885 first edition Ordnance survey map showing old field boundary ditch identified, highlighted in blue

Discussion and Conclusions

The ground-works only provided a limited view of the natural geology with no evidence of any archaeological remains. It's possible there are medieval furrows cutting the substrata and this might explain why natural geology was seen in some areas and not in others at the same depth. A linear ditch was identified to the south-east of the Shepherd hut locations. Glass was found within the fill and this appears to be a north-east to south-west field boundary ditch seen on the 1st edition OS map (Fig. 8).

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service with accession number X.A26.2022 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2022-22) and electronic copy (pdf_A).
- 1 watching brief form
- 1 DVD of 19 digital photographs
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photos

University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project and will be digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Vicki Score of ULAS. The archaeological fieldwork was carried out and the report written by Jamie Patrick of ULAS. Thanks go to Pat Hutchinson who provided and operated the mechanical excavator.

Bibliography

- Archaeology Data Service <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/Downloads.xhtml>
- British Geological Survey: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2004 *Technical Paper 7: Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human remains*
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2017 *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2020a, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2020b, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of Archaeological Archives*
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2020c, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.*
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2021, *Code of Conduct.*
- Cooper N (ed) 2006, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*
- DCMS (Department for Culture, media and sport) 1996, *The Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/77532/TreasureAct1996CodeofPractice2ndRevision.pdf
- Historic England, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.*
- Historic England 2015, *Digital Image Capture and File Storage*
- Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. (2012). *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.* University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.
- Leicestershire County Council, 2014 *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections.*
- MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2021 (Rev.), *National Planning Policy Framework*
- OASIS <https://www.oasis.ac.uk/>
- Soilscapes: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>
- Sutton P 2021, Heritage Impact Assessment: Land South-East of Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney, Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 0AJ.
- ULAS 2022 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance and Recording (Watching Brief). Site: Keepers Cottage, Twenty Acre Lane, Sutton Cheney. ULAS 21-314*



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
UK

t: +44 (0)116 252 2848

f: +44 (0)116 252 2614

e: ulas@le.ac.uk

