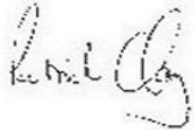


**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Pincet Lodge, Leicester Road,
North Kilworth, Leicestershire
(NGR: SP 629 859)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

**For Miss E.W. Walton
Planning Application Number: 06/00936/REM**

Checked by Project Manager



Signed:

Date: 21/07/08

Name: Patrick Clay

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Pincet Lodge, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 629 859)

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Greg Farnworth-Jones

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out on land at Pincet Lodge, Leicester Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (NGR SP 629 859) in June and July 2008, during the groundworks of a new dwelling. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Miss E.W. Walton to undertake the work, which consisted of the attendance and inspection of the site during the ground works. No archaeological finds or features were located during the watching brief. Therefore the Results of the investigation were negative.

The site archive will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council, Community Services Department, under the accession code: [X.A87.2008].

1. Introduction

1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Miss E.W. Walton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works for the construction of a new dwelling on land opposite Pincet Lodge, Leicester Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (NGR SP629859). The watching brief was undertaken between the 12th and 17th June and on 17th July 2008.

1.2 To fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition (Planning Application No: 06/00936/REM) in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30) 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 Harborough District Council, requested that an archaeological attendance for inspection & recording (an intensive watching brief) be undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site. This report presents the results of the watching brief.

2. Location

The site is located 3.5km north-east of North Kilworth (Figure 1) and is situated to the east of Pincet Lodge, across Leicester Road (Figure 2). It consists of an area of c.0.23 hectares in which it is proposed to construct new dwellings. The site had previously been used for sheep pasture.

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 169 (1994), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clay. The site is fairly flat and lies at a height of c.158m OD.

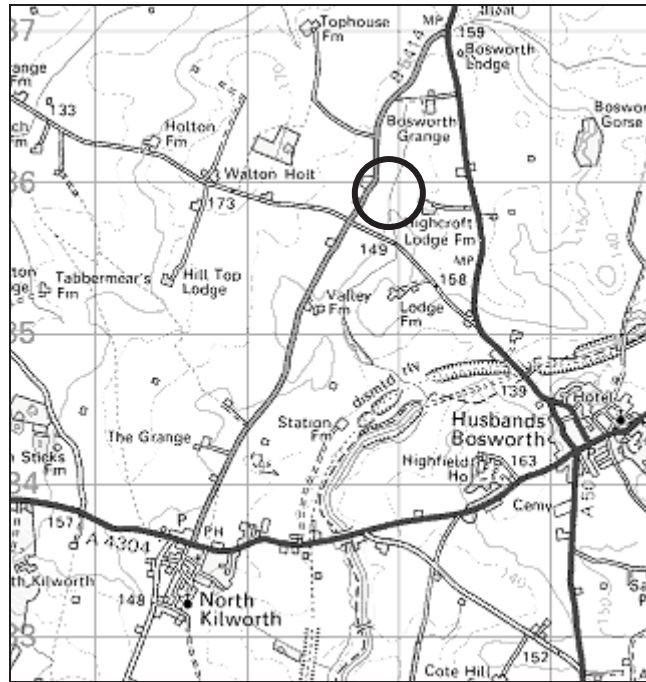
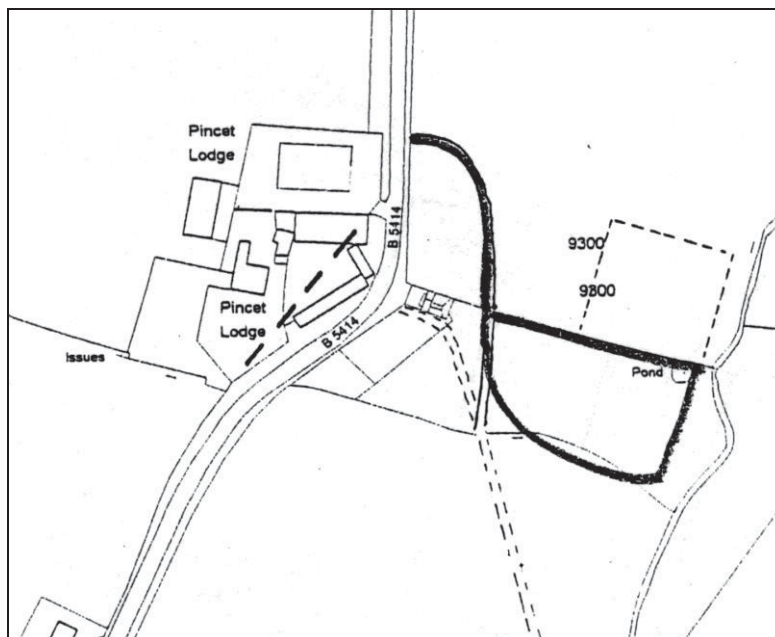


Figure 1 + 2: Site Location

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4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is in close proximity to two low mounds, the precise nature of which is unclear (HER Ref: 2193, 2192). Although these features are no longer visible as extant earthworks they had been recognised on aerial photographs of the site.

4.2 An archaeological evaluation immediately to the west of the proposed location did not reveal any evidence for archaeological remains in that location, although a worked prehistoric flint was recovered (ULAS Report No 2002/104).

4.3 The field directly to the south of the site contains medieval ridge and furrow and a medieval moated site has been recorded to the north-east.

5. Aims

The aims of the intensive watching brief, as set out in the Brief, were:-

- i. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits
- ii. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- iii. To excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the ground works
- iv. To produce an archive and report of any results

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

6. Methodology

6.1 The archaeological watching brief involved archaeological observation of topsoil stripping, the excavation of foundation trenches and the excavation of service trenches for the proposed new dwelling.

6.2 The topsoil strip and foundation trenches were excavated using a Hymac 130 with a ditching bucket. Following their excavation, all foundation trenches were examined and recorded by written record and photographs.

6.3 The work followed the *Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection & Recording at Pincet Lodge, North Kilworth* (Historic and Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*.

7. Results

7.1 The archaeological watching brief started with archaeological observation of topsoil stripping and associated ground reduction.

7.2 Initial machining revealed topsoil to a depth of *c.*0.3m which consisted of friable, slightly orange - grey sand/silt with frequent flint and pebbles. Further machining revealed beneath the topsoil a subsoil layer which consisted of grey/orange – brown friable sand/silt with occasional cobbles and small pebbles and iron flecking. During the ground reduction the natural substratum was not reached

7.3 Approximately half way across the site was located an irregular linear feature, containing a loose dark silt loam and modern demolition material (brick fragments, concrete and plastic etc.), which crossed the entire excavated area orientated approximately east-west (fig. 3). No archaeological finds or features were located during the topsoil strip.



Figure 3 West facing general shot showing topsoil strip and possible backfilled stream

7.4 After the topsoil strip was completed groundwork began on the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building. Initial machining revealed that the subsoil layer was *c.*0.3m deep and consisted of grey/orange – brown friable sand/silt with occasional cobbles and small pebbles and iron flecking. Further machining revealed the natural substratum which consisted of pale orange brown sandy clay with

frequent cobbles and ironstone pebbles and mottling caused by iron oxide deposits. No archaeological finds or features were identified.



Figure 4 West facing general shot showing foundation trenches



Figure 5 North facing Service Trench

7.5 The last phase of the archaeological watching brief investigation involved the observation of groundworks during the excavation of a service trench to the south-west of the main site. This trench cut directly through the two low earthwork mounds (HER Ref: 2193, 2192).

7.6 Initial machining revealed mid/light sandy silt topsoil with occasional stones to a depth of *c.*0.3m. Further machining revealed mid/light sandy silt subsoil to a depth of *c.*0.3m, below which was revealed the natural substratum which consisted of firm orange grey brown sandy clay. Despite excavating through the low earthwork mounds, no evidence of archaeology was observed. The stratigraphy of the mounds was identical to the stratigraphic sequence outside the mound area, except that the topsoil and subsoil were slightly deeper – *c.*0.4m each instead of *c.*0.3m respectively. The depth of the topsoil and subsoil receded slightly towards the south, by approximately *c.*0.1m each.

8. Conclusion

8.1 No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. The linear feature running east to west was confirmed by the excavator driver to have been a small ‘stream’ which he had personally backfilled last year. This anecdotal evidence was confirmed by the client (E. Walton pers.comm.). There was also an extant pond at the back of the site which may have been fed by the ‘stream’. However in the absence of map or aerial photographic evidence this may be better interpreted as a drainage ditch.

8.2 The absence of archaeological features during the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site suggests that here were only low levels of archaeological activity in the area. The two low earthwork mounds (HER Ref: 2193, 2192) failed to reveal any obvious archaeological evidence for their origins, being composed of what appeared to be redeposited subsoil.

8.3 During archaeological supervision of the groundworks 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.

9. Archive

9.1 The site archive consists of paper records and digital colour photographs and will be held with the County Archaeological Heritage Services, Leicestershire County Council Community Services Department under the Accession Number: X.A87.2008.

Accession number X.A.87.2008 contents:

Copy of Report:	Watching Brief Recording forms:	Digital Colour Photographs:
1	5	79

10. Acknowledgements

10.1 I would like to thank Miss E. W. Walton and everyone on site for their help and co-operation during this Watching Brief. This report was compiled from information collected on site by the author. Dr Patrick Clay of ULAS managed the project.

11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological publication in due course.

12. Bibliography

Butler, A., 2002 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Pincet Lodge, Leicester Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP 525 902)* ULAS Ref: 02/104

[http://www.multimap.com/maps/print/?qs=pincet% 20lane, % 20north%20kilworth\)](http://www.multimap.com/maps/print/?qs=pincet%20lane,%20north%20kilworth)

Leicester County Council 2008, *A Brief for Archaeological Attendance for Inspection & Recording (An Intensive Watching Brief) At Pincet Lodge Leicester Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire* (Historic and Natural Environment Team).

Greg Farnworth-Jones BA MA
Archaeological Supervisor
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: gj28@le.ac.uk

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