



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Thistle House, Kibworth Road,
Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 7096 9805

Mathew Morris



ULAS Report No. 2010-129
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An Archaeological Watching Brief
At Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston on the Hill
Leicestershire

NGR: SP 7096 9805

Mathew Morris

For: JTC Heard & Son

Planning application no. 10/00358/FUL

Approved by

Signed:  **Date:** 09.07.2010.

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire (SP 7096 9805)

Mathew Morris

Summery

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land adjacent to Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire (SP 7096 9805) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 7th July 2010. The work was carried out on behalf of J.T.C. Heard and Son in advance of construction of a wind turbine within a field north-west of the farm. The work involved supervision and inspection of a small machine excavated trench. The results of the investigation proved negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A123.2010

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological watching brief carried out at Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire (SP 7096 9805) (Figure 1). The work was carried out on behalf of J.T.C. Heard and Son by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 7th July 2010.

The proposed erection of a 25m high wind turbine at Thistle House (Planning Application No. 10/00358/FUL) was located c.71m north-west of the farm buildings and c.138m north-west of Kibworth Road, approximately 1.4km south of Illston on the Hill and 14km south-east of Leicester (Figure 2). The total development area covered c.22 square meters on the boundary between the farmyard and a field under arable cultivation.

The watching brief was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council, in accordance with DCLG Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5): Planning For the Historic Environment (2010), as laid out in the *Design Specification for Archaeological Inspection and Recording* (see Appendix 1).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 156 (Leicester), indicates that the underlying geology was likely to consist of superficial deposits of Mid-Pleistocene glacial Diamicton Till overlying bedrock deposits of Early Jurassic mudstone belonging to the Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2008). The site lies on the crest of a broad ridge at c.168m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) with the ground level to the west and south but dropping away to the north and east.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest close to the location of Roman pottery found during fieldwork by J R Branson in the late 1970s (HER Ref. MLE 1743 and

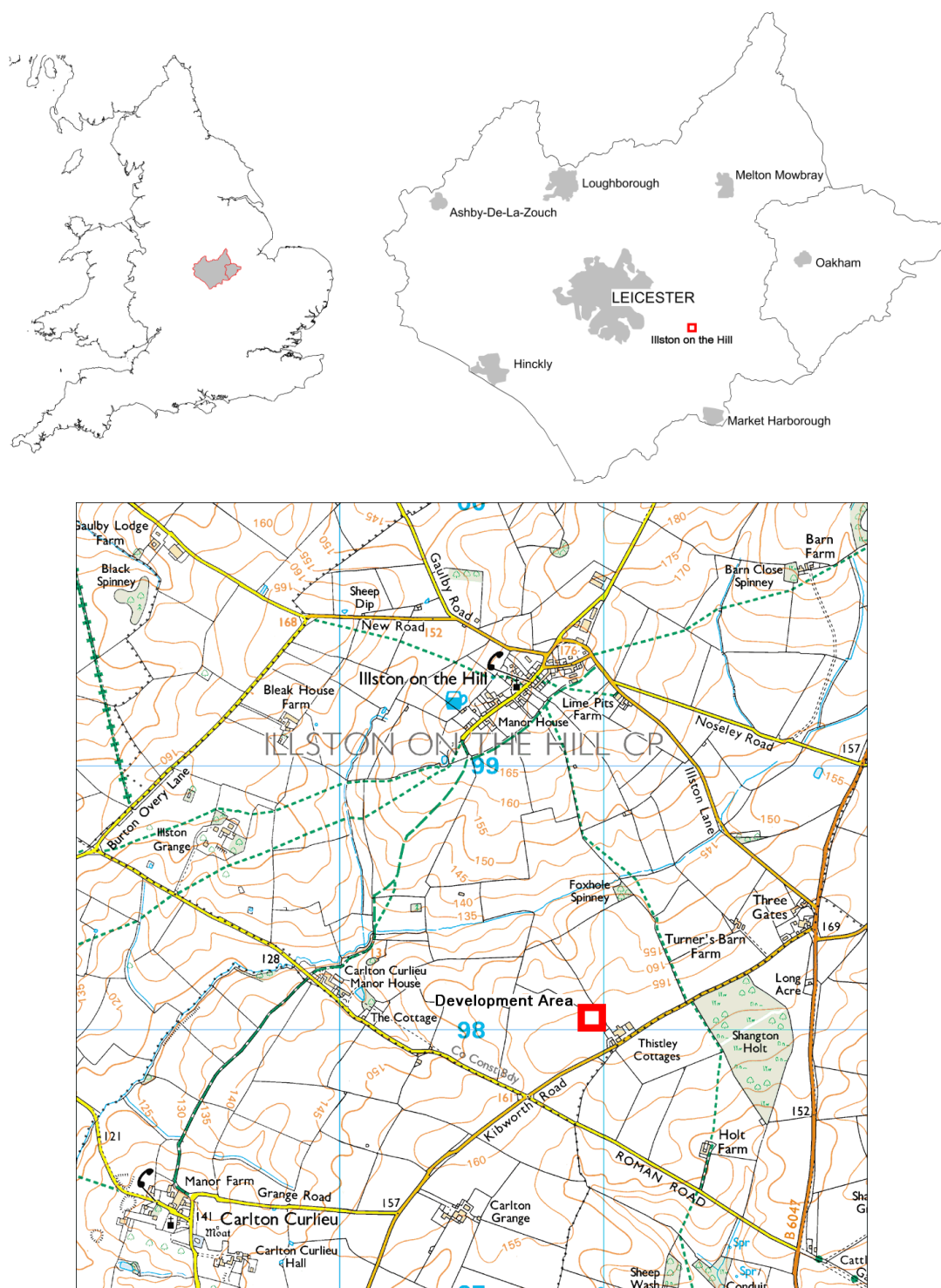


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 233 Leicester & Hinckley 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

7490). This was recorded as 'found during building of a new silage pit east of Thistle Close Cottages' in the 'same field as [a rectilinear] crop mark seen on RAF photo' and was therefore suggested to be an occupation site (Figure 2). Further small scatters of Roman pottery have also been recovered from across the field to the west

of the development site, whilst the *Via Devana*, the Roman Road running from Leicester to Godmanchester is also present c.400m to the south-west.

Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The proposed work involved the excavation of a 4.5m x 4.5m trench to a depth of c.1m below ground level. This required the presence of a professional archaeologist to supervise all work likely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

The work involved the supervision of the removal of topsoil and subsoil across the development area in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a mini JCB mechanical digger with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on a pro-forma ULAS watching brief record form.

All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

The area impacted by the construction of the wind turbine comprised one c.4.9m by c.4.5m trench for the turbine's footing (Figure 2). This was dug under observation to a depth of c.0.75m to expose the natural substratum (Figure 3).

Initial machining removed c.0.2m of greyish-orange silty-clay topsoil to expose paler greyish-yellow/orange silty clay subsoil. These were largely indistinguishable and both contained occasional small to medium rounded pebbles and chalk nodules mixed with scattered large angular stones and rounded cobbles. The natural substratum was reached c.0.5m to c.0.65m below present ground level. This was greyish-yellow clay containing occasional small to medium rounded pebbles and chalk nodules. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief and no residual finds were recovered from the spoil.

Discussion

Despite being in an area of archaeological interest, no features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were identified during the ground-works and clay deposits exposed beneath the topsoil appeared to be natural in origin, matching the superficial deposits noted in the British Geological Survey.

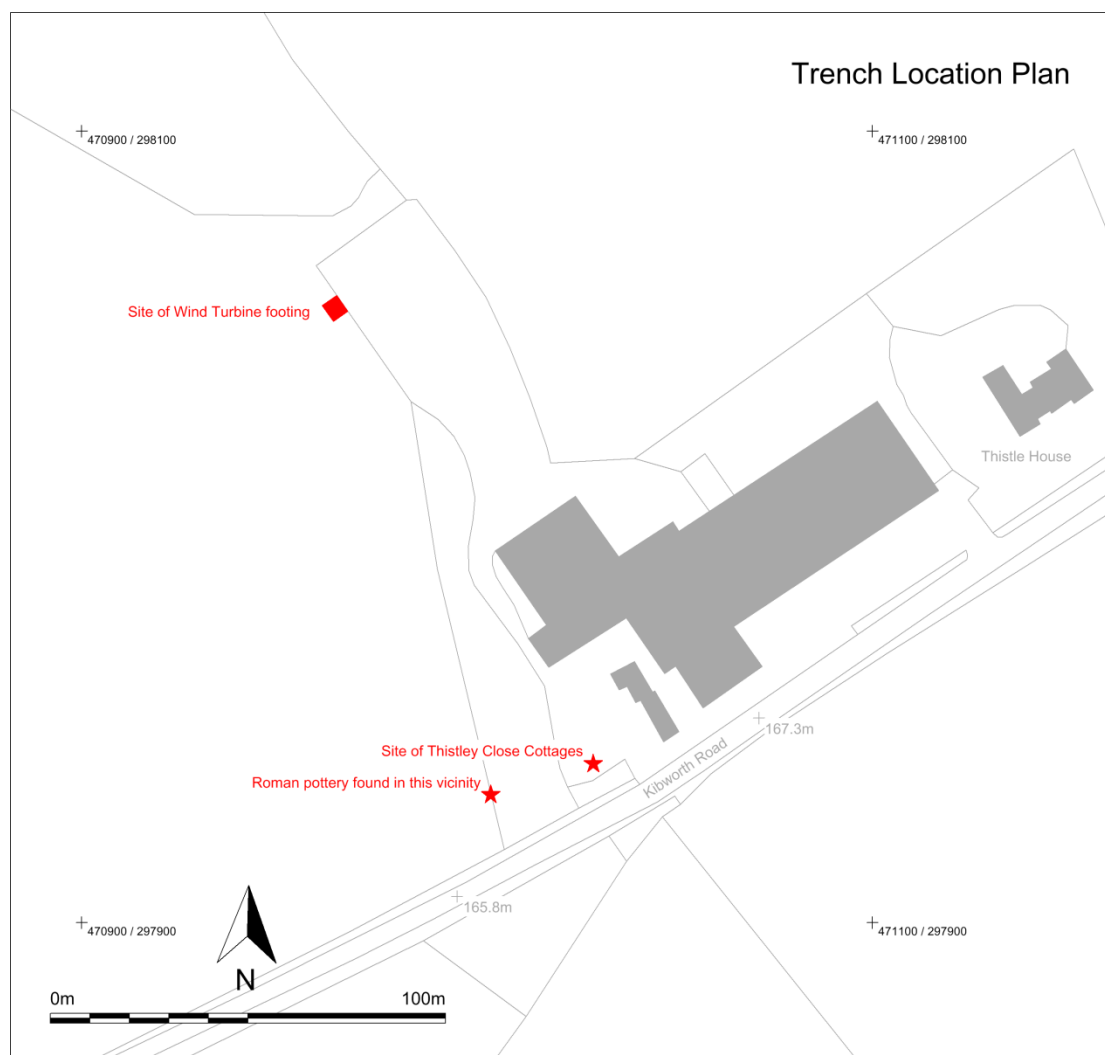


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Adapted from 1:1250 Ordnance Survey® map supplied by client. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495



Figure 3: The Turbine footing stripped down to natural clay. Looking west.



Figure 4: Northern corner of Turbine footing showing a typical section through the basic stratigraphic sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural clay. Looking north.

Bibliography

B.G.S., 2008 *England and Wales Sheet 156 Leicester: Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series.

Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 watching brief record form
5 digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A123.2010.

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 2).

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Dr. Patrick Clay.

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07/07/2010

Appendix 1: Design Specification for Archaeological Inspection and Recording

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

***Job title: Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston On The Hill, Leicestershire:
NGR: SP 7096 9805***

Client: JTC Heard & Son

***Planning Authority: Harborough District Council
P.A.10/00358/FUL***

1 Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic environment DCLG 2010), this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (a watching brief), as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for a proposed wind pump and ancillary services at *Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston On The Hill, Leicestershire* for JTC Heard and Son.
- 1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).

2 Background

- 2.1 Requirement for archaeological work:
 - 2.1.1 The archaeological work involves attendance (a watching brief) within the development area to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.
 - 2.1.2 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, close to the location of prehistoric and Roman pottery finds (MLE 7490 and 1743) suggesting possible settlement in the area.
 - 2.1.3 The proposal are likely to include the excavation of a footing for the pump and trenches for services, etc., that will damage or destroy buried archaeological remains if present within the development area.

3 Aims

- 3.1 Through archaeological attendance and, as appropriate, investigation:
 - To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

- 4.1 The project will involve the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above.
- 4.2 Should significant archaeological remains be identified a programme of excavation and recording may be necessary, using additional personnel as necessary.

- 4.3 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.4 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be 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.
- 4.5 Archaeological deposits will be 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 will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.6 All excavated sections will be 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.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer and Leicestershire County Council will be informed immediately on their discovery.
- 4.8 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the owners and Leicestershire County Council.
- 4.9 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

5 Recording Systems

- 5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.
- 5.3 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.
- 5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.
- 5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

- 6.1 An accession number will be drawn prior to the commencement of the project (Brief 8.1). Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed. A report on the investigation will be provided following the groundworks.
- 6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire County Council, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

- 7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

- 8.1 The investigation is scheduled to commence at the start of the contractors groundworks (currently w.c 05.07.2010). An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work.

9 Health and Safety

- 9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

- 10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

11 Bibliography

- Brown, D, 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists)*

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01.07.2010

Appendix 2: OASIS Database entry

Project Name	Thistle House, Kibworth Road, Illston on the Hill, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	Wind Turbine
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 7096 9805
Start/end dates of field work	07/07/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	22 square meters

Contact Details

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