

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief



Old Hayes Farm House, Ratby, Leicestershire

NGR SK 49048 06485



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October 2024

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1. Non-technical Summary

1.1 An archaeological Watching brief is proposed at Old Hayes Farm during relevant below ground construction ground works.

1.2 This document outlines the methodology for the proposed watching brief

2. Introduction

2.1 This document has been prepared by Ronan Mooney Heritage, on behalf of their client, Claire Swain as a methodology for an archaeological watching brief during relevant groundworks for a kitchen extension at Old Hayes Farm, Ratby, Leicester.

2.2 The site consists of Old Hayes Farmhouse, which is a GII listed building (List Entry Number: 1074092) and Old Hayes moated site and associated manorial earthworks, which is a scheduled monument (List Entry Number: 1017584).

3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The geology is predominantly clays, marlstones and red sandstones of the Mercian Mudstone series. These are overlain by glacial deposits such as boulder clay, sands and gravels.

Many walls in the village are built of Charnwood stones and slates.

3.2 The site sits 131m above sea level. Surrounding topography is generally flat but rising to the northwest. The site contains a moat which varies between 3m - 4m in depth although the land inside and outside the moat is level.

Within the moat there are at least 3 hollows that are anthropogenic in nature.

4. Archaeological Background

Timescales used:

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic 900,000 - 12,000 BC

Mesolithic 12,000 - 4,000 BC

Neolithic 4,000 - 1,800 BC

Bronze Age 1,800 - 600 BC

Iron Age 600 - AD 43

Historic

Roman AD 43 - 410

Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval AD 410 - 1066

Mediaeval AD 1066 - 1485

Post Medieval AD 1486 - 1799

Modern AD 1800 - Present

Iron Age

Evidence of Iron Age activity has been recovered including elements of farmstead settlement from excavations at Forrest Hill Golf Course situated 350m west of the site

Roman

A shard of roman pottery and roman coin were recovered from excavations at Ratby Lane, Kirby Muxloe, 450m south east of the site.

Anglo-saxon/early Medieval

The site is located 2.46km West-Northwest of Ratby which is a known Anglo-Saxon settlement listed as Rotebie in the Domesday Book

Medieval

The village of Ratby has been continuously inhabited since the early mediaeval period. The oldest standing building in the village is the Church of St. Philip and St. James's which was constructed between the 13th and 15th centuries.

The site itself is a scheduled monument containing a mediaeval moated enclosure. Although the current building on the site is a 17th century farmhouse it is "considered to preserve the remains of earlier buildings and features" (HE)

Post Medieval

The site is currently occupied by a C17th farm house, Old Hayes Farmhouse (List Entry Number: 1074092)

5. Aims and Objectives

5.1 The watching brief should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).

5.2 The watching brief should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

5.3 The general aims of the project are:

- To record any archaeological remains which may be present;
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artifactual or other evidence;
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
- To determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity;
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present; and
- To determine the sequence and dating of made ground deposits to enable an understanding of the recent history of the site and its impact on archaeological remains.

6. Archaeological Watching Brief - Detailed Specification

6.1 The general aims of the watching brief are detailed in section 5. This section details the on site methodologies, report format and other related details.

6.2 Specifically this watching brief will attempt to establish the depth of the archaeological horizon (natural geology) below the proposed kitchen extension. The proposed depth of the raft foundation is 0.5m. If the archaeological horizon is found to be less than 0.5m from the surface work will stop to allow further assessment of project design

6.3 The watching brief will consist of 7, 0.5m x0.5m test pits around the perimeter and a single 0.5m x 0.5m test pit in the centre of the proposed extension (fig. 1)

6.4 All test pits will be excavated under supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

6.5 Test pits will be hand dug by context (top soil, sub soil) in 100mm spits to ensure controlled excavation.

6.6 A full photographic record will be produced. This will include pre-excavation and post excavation shots with appropriate scales.

6.7 As the aim of the archaeological watching brief is to establish the depth of the archaeological horizon any archaeology that is identified will be left in situ.

6.8 If archaeological features are exposed in the natural horizon they will be photographed, noted on a site plan and assigned context numbers in line with standard archaeological practice.

6.9 All photographs will be in digital format and an associated index/archive will be produced.

6.10 Should scale drawings be necessary they will be produced to normal archaeological standards and scales. Plans 1:20, Sections 1:10.

6.11 A report of the archaeological watching brief will be prepared for the County Archaeologist and Historic England. This will be produced in line with ClfA guidance

6.12 As there will be no excavation of archaeological features there is currently no need for a plan of conservation of artefacts/samples. If it is decided to excavate archaeological features a conservation plan will be included in a future WSI.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Guidelines:

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/code_conduct.pdf

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_code_practice.pdf

National Guidance:

Department of Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Department of Communities and Local Government/Department of Culture Media and

Sport/English Heritage PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment

Planning Practice Guide 2010

Figures

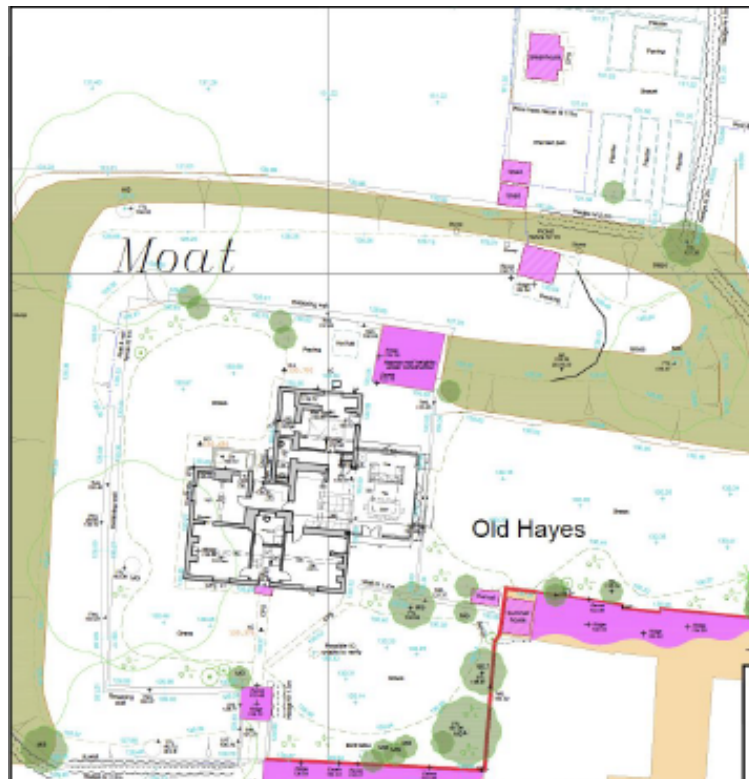


Fig. 1 Location of Old Hayes Farmhouse within moated site

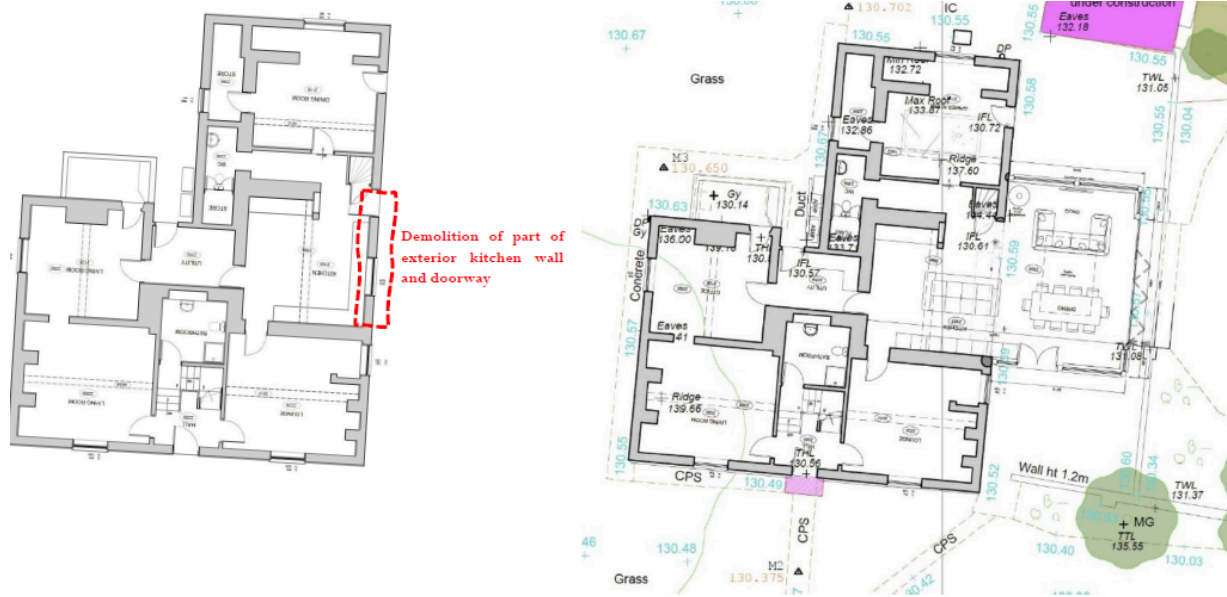


Fig. 2 Showing current plan of Old Hayes Farm (left) and with proposed extension (right)

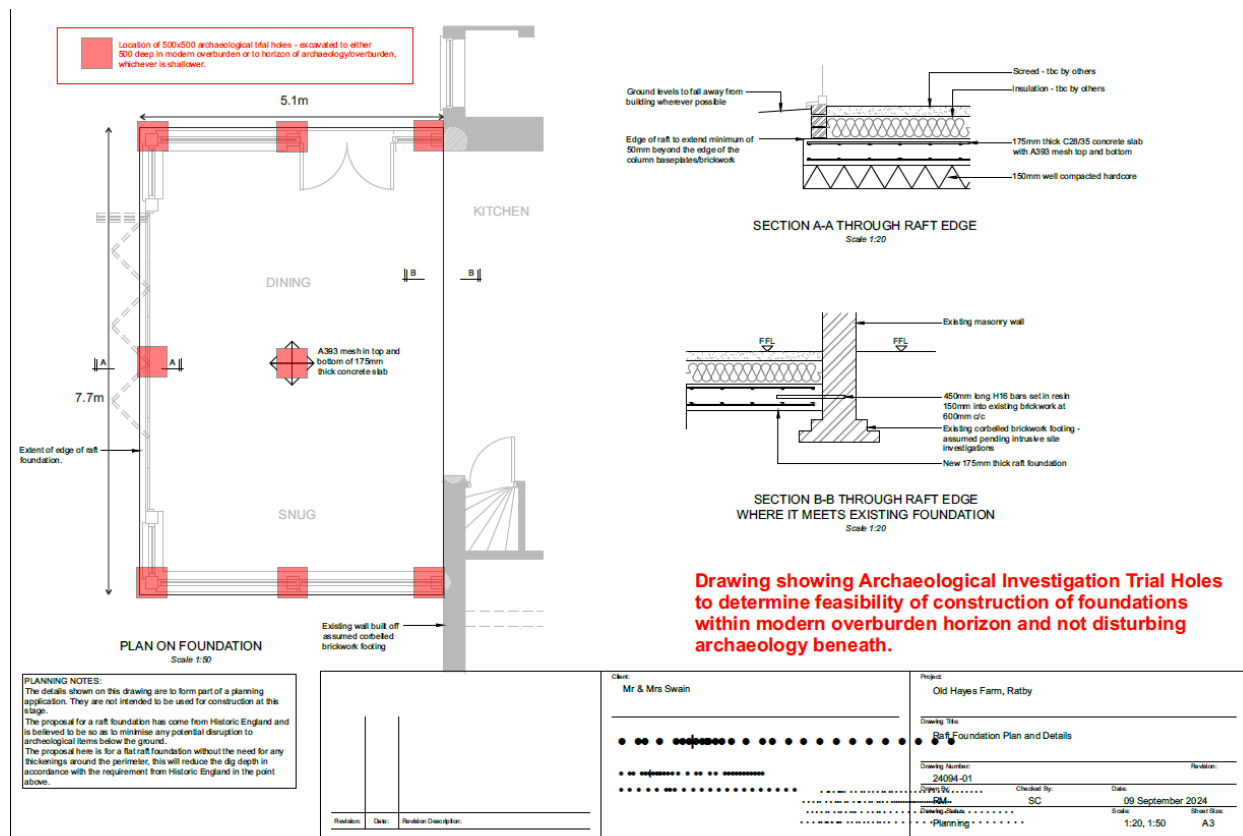


Fig.3 Locations of proposed test pits