

Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire

(Planning Ref: 12/00676/FUL)



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire

(Planning Ref: 12/00676/FUL)

(NGR SK 8470 2806)

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On the request of

**Neville Hall MfA
Belvoir Estate**

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<i>Rev02</i>	<i>07/05/2014</i>	<i>P. Riccoboni</i>	<i>N. Hall</i>	<i>R. Clark</i>	<i>Final Report capturing comments from Richard Clark (LCC)</i>

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Non-technical summary

PRO Archaeology Services were commissioned by the Belvoir Estate to undertake a post-planning determination archaeological evaluation at Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire in advance of the proposed construction of four new broiler poultry units (incorporating eight feed silos). This post-determination evaluation was required in addition to pre-planning application initial archaeological desk based assessment study and pre-determination site evaluation. Three trenches were positioned over the western and northern areas of the proposed new build. The trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved by this further site evaluation work.

1. Introduction

PRO Archaeology Services were commissioned by the Belvoir Estate to undertake a post-planning determination archaeological field evaluation at Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire. This further work was required by Mr Richard Clark, Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council following an initial archaeological desk based assessment study (Hall 2012) and an archaeological site evaluation, which uncovered a potential Roman ditch (Chinnock 2013). This initial desk based study and field evaluation accompanied and informed the original planning application for this proposed development.

The three additional archaeological trenches were positioned across the western and northern areas of the proposed new poultry units. Trench 8 measured 20m in length by 2.4m in width, Trench 9- 40m in length by 1.80m in width and Trench 10 - 50m in length by 1.80m in width respectively. The trench locations were designed to provide sufficient and additional coverage across the areas not previously covered by the prior Northamptonshire Archaeology archaeological evaluation (Chinnock 2013).

2. Site location and Description

The assessment site is situated on an undulating upland area of the Jurassic limestone escarpment that traverses England from Dorset through to Yorkshire, at a height of approximately 154m AOD. Barn Lodge Farm is situated approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the village of Croxton Kerrial and about the same distance to the north of the village of Saltby within the civil parish of Croxton Kerrial, administrative district of Melton Borough, county of Leicestershire.

The site currently comprises an area of arable agricultural land to the immediate east of the existing Barn Lodge Farm complex (Central National Grid reference: SK 8470 2806). Mature

hedgerows comprise the northern and southern boundaries, whilst the western boundary is marked by a timber post and wire fence. The eastern boundary is not yet defined. Two existing poultry units are situated to the west (Fig. 1).

The area of the development site is situated on shallow well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Series which have developed on Oolitic limestones of the Middle Jurassic (Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1996).

3. Planning background

In 2012, an initial archaeological desk based assessment study of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site and that of its environs was undertaken. This study was prepared to accompany and inform an application for planning consent for the proposed development on this site. This report concluded the site had low potential for prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods, and uncertain to nil potential for medieval and post-medieval remains (Hall 2012).

Following this initial archaeological desk based assessment study, Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Neville Hall Archaeological Services, on behalf of the Belvoir Estate, to conduct a pre-planning application archaeological site evaluation comprising trial trenching. The evaluation was designed to gain a better understanding of the archaeological potential of the site. Seven trenches were excavated and two were extended to further investigate a large east-west orientated ditch observed in three trenches in the northern area of the proposed new build footprint. Two very small fragments of Roman pottery were recovered near the surface of the ditch (Chinnock 2013).

In 2013, an application for a proposed new development at Barn Lodge Farm, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire to comprise the construction of four new broiler poultry units (incorporating eight feed silos); associated new service road to connect these units to the Croxton Road (within the corridor of the existing access road) and the upgrading of the existing access to Barn Lodge Farm at its intersection with the Croxton Road, was submitted to Melton Borough Council (the local planning authority) and duly approved (Planning Ref: 12/00676/FUL). The archaeological desk based assessment study report and a report detailing the results of the archaeological field evaluation accompanied this planning application.

Following the planning approval for this proposed development, a condition was placed on the planning consent requiring a further staged programme of archaeological work before the commencement of the development. PRO Archaeology Services prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (PAS 2013) which outlined a methodology for the further work and was submitted by the applicant and duly approved by Richard Clark, the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the Local Planning Authority in April 2013. This document set out the requirements for the further archaeological trial trenching at the site.

The purpose of this evaluation was to establish if there were any further archaeological remains in the areas not covered by the prior pre-planning application determination evaluation.

4. The archaeological background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) makes reference to several nearby areas of archaeological significance. Bronze Age pit alignments can be seen as cropmarks 400m to the south-east of the Barn Lodge Farm (HERMLE17670). King Lud's entrenchments (HER MLE3552) are situated to the east and south-east of the assessment site; the line of which may possibly be continued further to the west by the line of the boundary between the parishes of Croxton Kerrial and Sproxton. The origin of the 'entrenchments' is unclear but they may represent a late Bronze Age or Iron Age bank and ditch system. Fieldwalking between 1963 and 1978 in the field immediately to the west of the site yielded 32 sherds of Roman pottery, two 4th century AD coins and roof tile fragments (HER MLE8647). It has been suggested that this represents a nearby Roman settlement. A Roman quern stone was recovered south-east of Croxton Kerrial during World War II (HER MLE6603).

Croxton is mentioned in the Domesday survey of AD1086 as *Crohtone* or *Crochstone*. White's 1877 Leicester and Rutland Directory notes that King Stephen (reigned AD1135-1154) gave Croxton to his natural son, William, Earl of Montaigne. William is said to be one of the founders of Croxton Abbey in the mid 11th century. The feudal affix *Kerial*, which distinguished this settlement from the nearby settlement of South Croxton, was derived from the family name of Bertramus de Cryall, who was granted the manor of Croxton in AD1239 (Hall 2012). White goes on to state that in the 13th and 14th centuries 'It [Croxton] was held, mostly under the abbey, by the Criol, Curiel or Kyriel family'. In the 1887 Gazetteer of the British Isles, John Bartholomew makes reference to Croxton Keyrial. This progression is presumably the root of the modern Croxton Kerrial.

Ordnance Survey maps show that the current layout of the field boundaries has not changed since at least 1885. The boundary to the south of the site is the parish boundary which again, has not moved since 1885.

A full archaeological and historical background can be obtained from the desk based *Heritage Assessment* (Hall 2012).

5. Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological investigation were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of trench excavations. The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to define the scope of the original work undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Specific aims were:

- to determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered;
- to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits;
- to clarify the nature of deposits and assess the potential for all periods; and

- to try and establish whether any further Roman archaeological activity may be present here, which may help establish with more certainty the date, extent, form and possible function of the ditch discovered by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

6. The Methodology

The modern overburden was carefully removed by a mechanical excavator (14 tonne) fitted with a wide (1.8m) toothless ditching bucket.

All mechanical excavation fieldwork was carried out under archaeological supervision and care was taken not to damage the archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

All surfaces revealed were inspected and archaeological features revealed were recorded in plan and section as appropriate.

All recording was undertaken to the standards detailed in the Museum of London Archaeology Service Archaeological Site Manual Third Edition 1994.

All recording points were accurately tied into the National Grid and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.

Plans and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:100 & 1:20), located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD and accurately tied in to the site grid. All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled and will form part of the site archive.

All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets.

A photographic record of the work was maintained.

All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *brief* issued by the Leicestershire County Council (LCC 2012), *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by PRO Archaeology (PAS 2013), *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997) and the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised Oct 2008).

7. The Results

The general stratigraphy recorded within the trenches consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural substrate was encountered at the base of the trenches and was composed of yellow orange-brown clay silt with a very high density of angular limestone fragments (Cornbrash) throughout. Overlying the natural was a 0.05m and 0.10m depth of subsoil of mid yellow-brown colour and clay silt texture with occasional limestone fragments

(not present everywhere). The latest deposit was a c. 0.30m thick mid brown clay silt topsoil with occasional limestone fragments. Limestone fragments were present throughout the topsoil, presumably brought up from the natural substrate as a result of ploughing.

7.1 Trench 8 (Fig. 1)

Trench 8 was excavated to a length of 20m (2.3-2.5m width) and to varying depths of between 0.44m (153.26m AOD) at the northern end and 0.30m (153.14m AOD) at the southern end. The stratigraphy at the northern end consisted of the following deposits (earliest to latest). The natural light orange brown clay silt with dense limestone (Cornbrash) geology was encountered at the base of the trench (8/03). At the northern end of the trench overlying the natural was a thin (0.10m thick) layer of mid orange brown clay silt (8/02) with occasional limestone subsoil. The latest deposit was a 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (8/01). At the southern end of the trench the natural (8/03) was directly overlain by ploughsoil (8/01) with no discernable layer of subsoil present.

A possible linear feature was investigated at the northern end of the trench, thought to be an infilled former parliamentary enclosure field boundary ditch on an east-west direction orientation. Upon hand excavation, this was proved in section to be a natural spread patch of silt within the natural horizon (8/03). There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds recorded within this trench.

7.2 Trench 9 (Fig. 1)

Trench 9 was excavated to a length of 50m (1.8m width) and to a consistent depth of 0.30m (153.03-152.86m AOD). The stratigraphy was simple with the natural horizon of light-mid yellow orange clay silt with frequent limestone fragments at the base of the trench (9/02), overlain by a 0.30m dark brown ploughsoil (9/01).

Two possible discrete archaeological features were investigated, but following hand excavation were proven to be natural silt spreads within the natural horizon (9/02) patches. There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds recorded within this trench.

7.3 Trench 10 (Fig. 1)

Trench 10 was excavated to a length of 40m (1.8m width) and to a consistent depth of 0.30m (152.91-152.63m AOD).

At the south-eastern end of the trench the following stratigraphic sequence (earliest to latest) was observed and recorded. The natural horizon of orange clay silt with dense limestone fragments (Cornbrash) was encountered at the base of the trench (10/03). This was overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of mid brownish orange clay silt with occasional limestone subsoil (10/02). The latest deposit was a 0.25m thick dark greyish brown ploughsoil (10/01). At the

north western end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of the natural geology (10/03), overlain by the dark brown ploughsoil (10/01).

There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds recorded within this trench.

8. The Finds

There were no finds recovered from this evaluation.

9. Discussion

This archaeological evaluation was successful in proving that no further archaeological remains exist at the proposed development site and confirmed that the putative east-west orientated Roman ditch identified within Trench 8 of the 2013 evaluation is the only discrete discovered archaeological feature present at the proposed development site (Chinnock 2013).

The ditch was shallow and was presumably a former field boundary ditch, probably with a bank on one side and inserted hedgerow, rather than having a potential drainage function owing to its shallow nature and the ease of which natural rain/water runoff percolates into the underlying natural horizon of cornbrash. The nearby Roman finds in the adjacent field to the west (HER MLE8647) hint at Roman settlement activity in this area, and this ditch was probably associated with that settlement, located within the outlying fields as a peripheral settlement feature.

The lack of archaeological features and finds identified by this further evaluation work strongly indicates that this area was peripheral to any possible Roman settlement site to the west. The presence of the field boundary ditch here indicates that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the Roman period. If any other shallow or ephemeral archaeological features had ever previously existed at this site, they are unlikely to have survived centuries of ploughing across this field, with only a shallow *in situ* topsoil providing little protection.

A confidence rating is high that the best possible results have been achieved by this further archaeological field evaluation.

10. References

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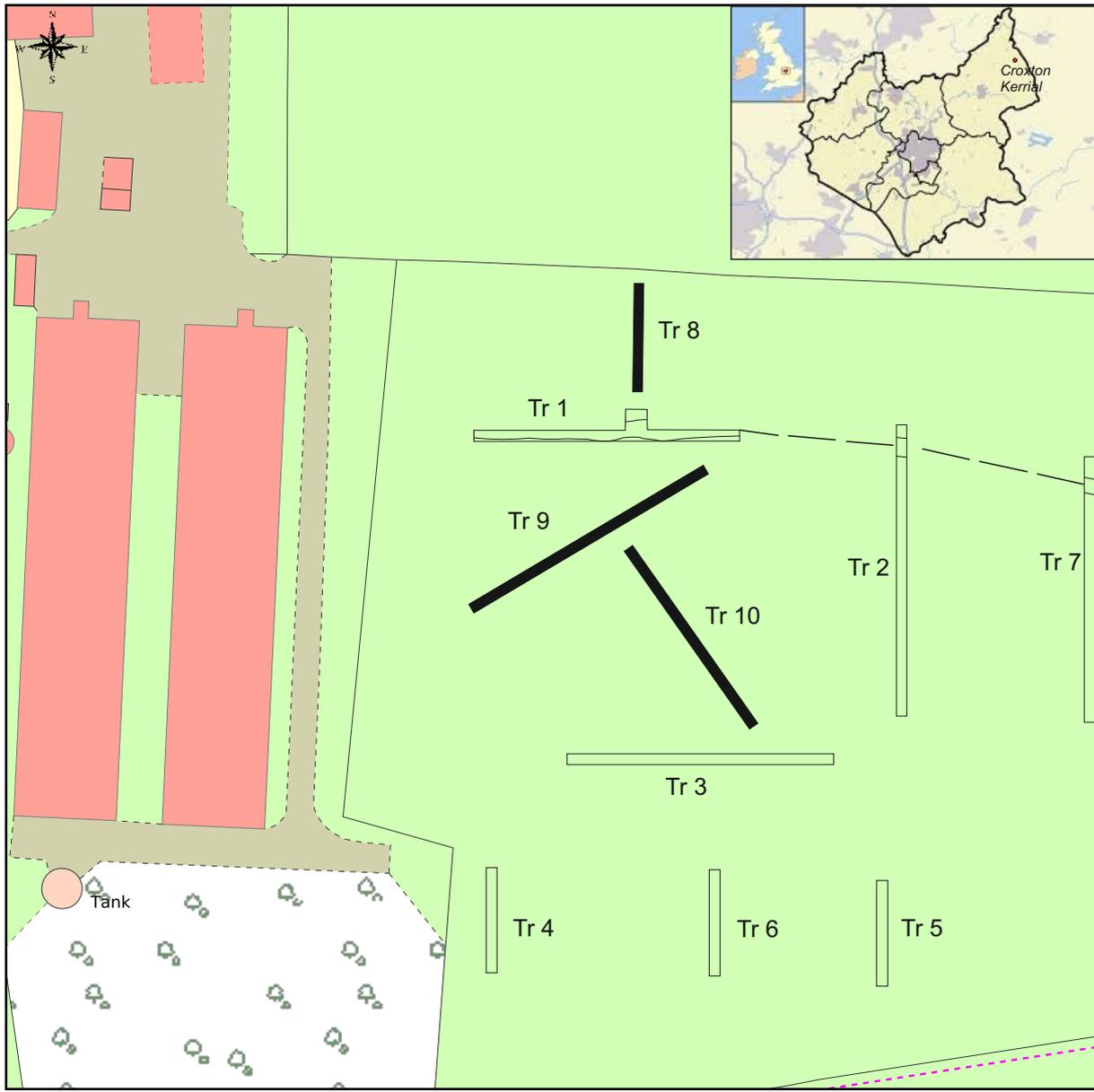
PRO Archaeology 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation of land Barn Lodge Farm, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire*

Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*

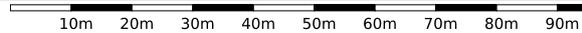
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Figure 1: Barn Lodge Farm, Croxton Kerrial



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Scale: 1:1250, paper size: A4

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Site and Trench Location

Trench location based on requirements from Richard Clark

-  New trenches
-  Northamptonshire Trenches
-  Ditch

Appendix A: Selected Photos



Photo 1: Trench 8- looking south



Photo 2: Trench 8 Section- looking west



Photo 3: Trench 9 looking south west



Photo 4: Trench 10 looking south east

Appendix B: Context Inventory

Context No	Trench/Area	Type/deposit/ cut/masonry	Description	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Height (m) AOD
8/01	8	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty clay occasional limestone	0.25	Ploughsoil	Top 153.70 (N) Top 153.44 (S)
8/02	8	Deposit	Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional limestone	0.10	Subsoil	153.60
8/03	8	Deposit	Light yellowish orange clay silt with high density limestone (natural corn brash)	/	Natural (Jurassic)	153.26 (N) 153.14 (S)
9/01	9	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone	0.30	Ploughsoil	153.41 (NE) 153.17 (SW)
9/02	9	Deposit	Light yellowish orange clay silt with high density limestone (natural corn brash)	/	Natural (Jurassic)	153.02 (NE) 152.86 (SW)
10/01	10	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone	0.30	Ploughsoil	153.21 (NW) 152.94 (SE)
10/02	10	Deposit	Mid brownish orange clay silt with frequent limestone	0.05	Subsoil	c.153.00
10/03	10	Deposit	Light yellowish orange clay silt with high density limestone (natural corn brash)	/	Natural (Jurassic)	152.91 (NW) 152.63 (SE)

Appendix C: OASIS Summary record

OASIS ID: proarcha1-174029	
Project details	
Project name	Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial
Short description of the project	PRO Archaeology Services were commissioned by clients to undertake a post-determination archaeological evaluation at Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire in advance of the proposed construction of four new broiler poultry units (incorporating eight feed silos). Three trenches were positioned over the area of the proposed new build. The trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.
Project dates	Start: 08-03-2014 End: 10-03-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	12/00676/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	X.A1.2013 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE MELTON CROXTON KERRIAL Barn Lodge Farm, Saltby Road, CroxtonKerrial
Postcode	NG32 1RB

Study area	2.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 8470 2806 52.8430500905 -0.742306940609 52 50 34 N 000 44 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 152.63m Max: 153.26m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PRO Archaeology Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	PRO Archaeology Services
Project director/manager	Paul Riccoboni
Project supervisor	Paul Riccoboni
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Belvoir Estate
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Archaeology Colletions
Digital Archive ID	x.A1.2013
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Archaeology Colletions
Paper Archive ID	X.A1.2013
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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