



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological exploratory investigation by trial trenching on land east of Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland.

NGR: SK 8966 0030



John Thomas

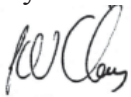
ULAS Report No. 2011-161
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**An Archaeological
exploratory investigation
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on land east of Seaton Road,
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NGR: SK 8966 0030

John Thomas

For: Jeakins Weir Ltd.

Approved by
Signed:  ..Date: ...18.10.2011.
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ULAS Report Number 2011-161
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Accession Number OAKRM. 2011.24

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An Archaeological exploratory investigation by trial trenching on land east of Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland. NGR: SK 8697 0030.

John Thomas

Summary

An archaeological field investigation was undertaken on land east of Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 19th of October 2011. Four trial trenches were excavated in response to proposals for residential development, as proposed under Planning Application number P.A. OUT/2007/0703.

The results of the work were negative, with all four trenches containing only topsoil and subsoil layers overlying natural sands. No archaeological layers or cut features were revealed. A single unstratified flint artefact represented the only evidence for human activity on the site.

The archive will be deposited with Rutland County Council under Accession Number OAKRM 2011.24.

Introduction

In accordance with PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment, 2010), this document presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation (AFE) on land at east of Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland (Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to development proposals for two new houses (Planning Application No. P.A. OUT/2007/0703).

Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE6, Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET), as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, required an evaluation by trial trenching.

The proposed development site comprises part of a builders yard located east of Seaton Road and on the southern edge of the main core of Glaston itself (SK 8697 0030). The site lies on fairly flat ground, with a slight fall to the east, at around 120m OD and covers an area of approximately 2400 square metres (c.0.24ha).

The proposed development site was evaluated with four 20m long trial trenches that were located across the area to provide a c.5% sample of the site.

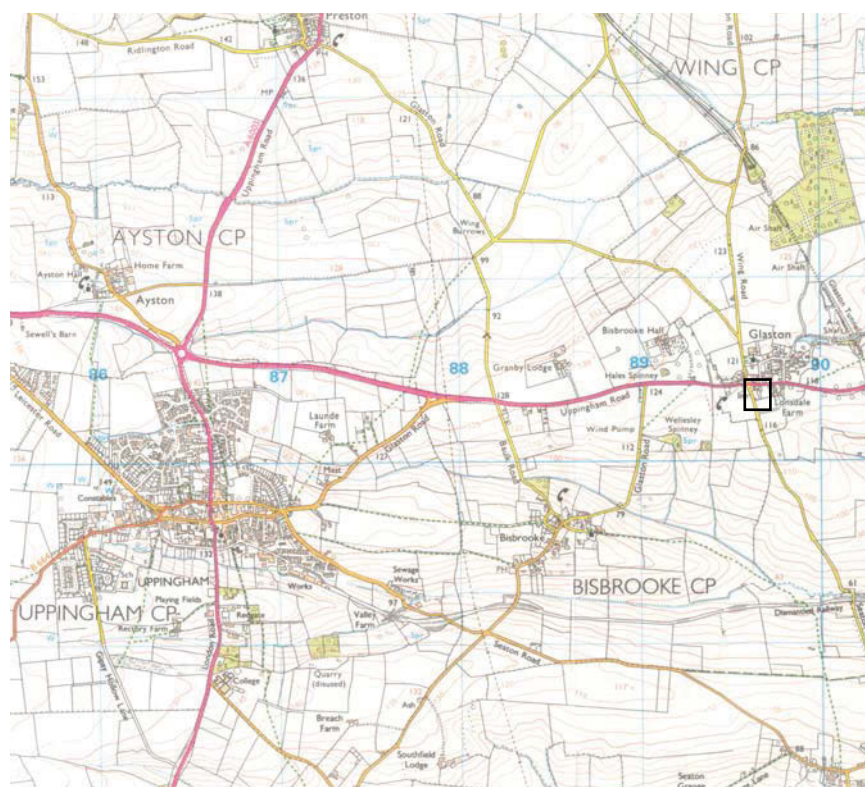


Figure 1 Location of site (in box)
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Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site is situated within an area of archaeological interest, with recorded finds and sites indicating a considerable length of human occupation in the vicinity. It lies within to the historic core of Glaston (**MLE9062**) and close to areas rich in archaeological finds. To the north of the application area, on the opposite side of the A47, rare evidence of early human activity from the Upper Palaeolithic was revealed during excavation (**MLE9061**). Evidence for a Bronze Age cemetery (**MLE5275**) has also been revealed to the north of the site, as well as Anglo Saxon cemetery remains (**MLE5274**) and early medieval village features (**MLE8362**). Nearer to the site, undated cropmark features, most likely indicating a ring ditch and enclosures, lie in the field to the west, less than 150m from the application area (**MLE17221** & **MLE17220**).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological work (WSI) (ULAS 2011) were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits identified by the geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and remains not previously identified by geophysical survey.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 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 development. From this an appropriate method of dealing with any archaeological deposits can be formulated or an appropriate mitigation strategy developed.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Topsoil and subsoil was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All spoil heaps were inspected for unstratified archaeological material. All trenches were excavated to a width of 1.6m and down to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substratum in the absence of any archaeological deposits. After recording, the trenches were backfilled and levelled during the course of the evaluation.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

Each trench was recorded on a standard ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheet noting soil depths and descriptions. One longitudinal face and the base of each trench was recorded in this way. Trench locations were recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and black and white 35mm photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Results

The four trenches were laid out to provide the best possible coverage of the application site. Restrictions on available space, due to stored containers, vehicles and piles of builders debris across the site were problematic, resulting in slight modification to the original location plan submitted (Figure 2). All trenches measured c.20m in length x 1.6m wide.

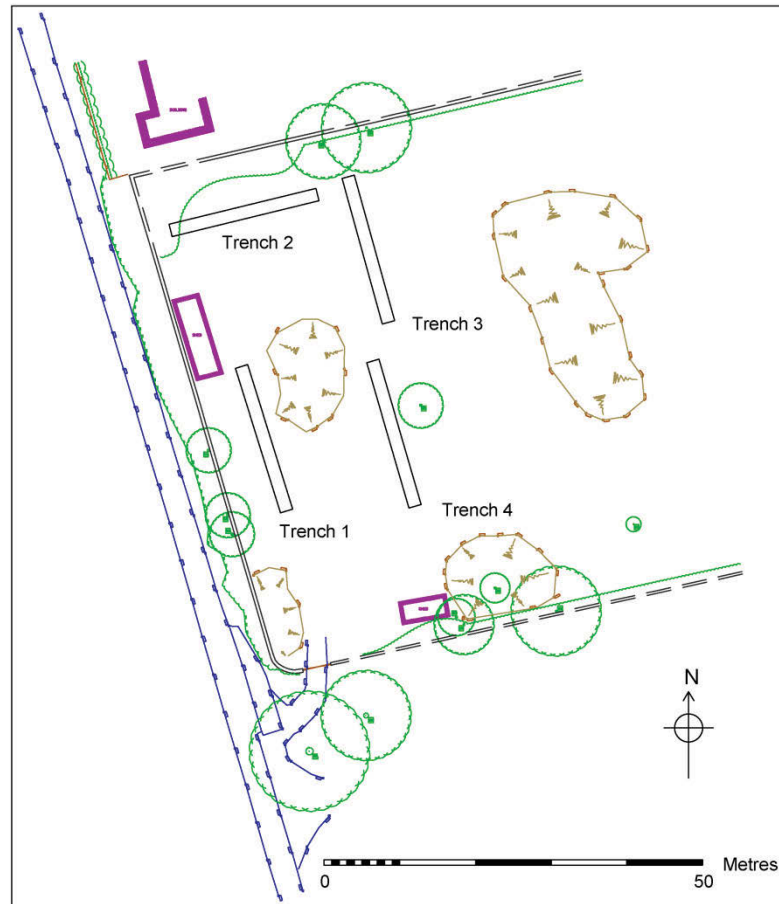


Figure 2 Trench Location plan (adapted from mapping supplied by Jeakins Weir Ltd.).

Trench 1 (Figure3)

Trench 1 was located towards the south-western corner of the application area on a north to south alignment and measured c.19m x 1.6m wide. Natural subsoil, consisting mainly of orange/brown slightly clayey sand with soft yellow sand mottles was revealed c.0.55m below the present ground level (c.118mOD). Fragments of limestone, surviving as rounded ‘rafts’ were also present at the top of the natural subsoil. A layer of subsoil consisting of firm mid-brown silty clay-sand (c.0.30m thick) lay above the natural sands, and this was in turn overlain by a topsoil layer of loose greyish brown silty sand (c.0.26m thick). Topsoil had been removed along approximately half of the trench length and replaced with a layer of hardcore to provide a firm surface for vehicles entering the site. No archaeological features or finds were revealed in this trench.



Figure 3 Trench 1 viewed from the south.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

The second trench was located in the north-west corner of the site on an east to west alignment and measured c.20m x 1.6m wide. Natural subsoil was revealed c.0.35m below the present ground level (c.119mOD) and consisted of orange/brown slightly clayey sand with soft yellow sand mottles, as in Trench 1. Trench 2 also contained much more of the limestone 'rafts', particularly in the western end of the trench. A slightly deeper section of the trench revealed soft yellow sands beneath the orange/brown layer. A worked flint fragment was recovered from the interface between the two layers but this was the only find from the trench and was not associated with an archaeological feature. Relatively large roots (c.0.03m diameter) had penetrated the sands to this depth (and beyond) and it is likely that the artefact travelled down as a result of bioturbation. Overlying the natural sands were layers of subsoil (c.0.15m thick) and topsoil (c.0.20m thick), both with similar consistencies to those encountered in Trench 1.



Figure 4 Trench 2 viewed from the west – the limestone ‘rafts’ can be seen in the foreground and the lighter sands in the middle distance.

Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Trench 3 was situated *c.*3m to the east of Trench 2 and lay on a north to south alignment, measuring *c.*21m x 1.6m wide. This trench had an average depth of *c.*0.56m beneath the present ground level (*c.*119m OD). As with the previous trenches, topsoil (*c.*0.30m thick) and subsoil (*c.*0.20 thick) layers overlay natural substrata of orange/brown slightly clayey sand with yellow sand mottles and several limestone ‘rafts’. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.



Figure 5 Trench 3 viewed from the north.

Trench 4 (Figure 6)

Trench 4 located in the south-eastern quarter of the application area and lay on a north to south alignment, measuring *c.*20m x 1.6m wide. Natural subsoil in this trench varied between orange/brown clay-sand in the northern half and soft mottled sand to the south. It lay at a depth of *c.*0.50m below the present ground level (*c.*118m OD). A subsoil layer (*c.*0.20m thick) and a topsoil layer (*c.*0.30m thick) overlay the natural substrate. No finds or archaeological features were revealed in the trench.



Figure 6 Trench 4 viewed from the north.

Discussion

The investigation trenches were located across the application area in order to provide a reasonable coverage of the site and assess the potential for archaeological survival.

No archaeological features were revealed in any of the trenches and there was also very little evidence for human activity in the form of stray finds. One exception to this was a single struck flint artefact from Trench 2, although this was not closely datable. This area of the site was very disturbed by tree root activity and it is a possibility that the artefact travelled into the subsoil through bioturbation.

This investigation has revealed no indication that significant archaeological remains survive on the site.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by John Thomas and Andrew Hyam. The flint artefact was identified by Lynden P. Cooper. ULAS would like to thank Ian Davies of Jeakins Weir Ltd. for his co-operation and assistance during the work. The project was managed by Dr Patrick Clay.

Site Archive and Results

The archive consists of:

This report,

4 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

1x 35mm black and white negative film and corresponding contact sheet,

27 colour digital photographs,

Photographic record sheets,

1 flint artefact

1 compact disc of this report and the digital photographs.

The site archive will be deposited with Rutland County Council Archaeology Store under the archaeological accession number OAKRM 2011.24. A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. An OASIS record will also be produced and this report will be uploaded on to the Archaeology Data Service website.

Bibliography

IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

ULAS, 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: Land east of Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland*. ULAS document 12/518.

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21.10.2011

Appendix I: The Finds (identified by Lynden P. Cooper)

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Date</i>
Two	unstratified	1x worked flint artefact	uncertain

This piece is a small flake core fragment resulting from a fracture on an incipient thermoclastic plane. It is very slightly patinated. The platform has some small removals that may represent platform preparation. Unfortunately the piece is not closely datable.

Appendix II OASIS Information

OASIS INFORMATION	
Project Name	Seaton Road, Glaston, Rutland
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	J Thomas
Previous/Future work	none, unknown future work
Current Land Use	Builders yard/rough pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	Pre-determination evaluation
Position in the Planning Process	Preliminary
Site Co ordinates	SK 8697 0030
Start/end dates of field work	19.10.2011
Archive Recipient	LCCHNET
Study Area	0.24ha

ULAS Contact Details

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