



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation at Hall Croft Farm,
Stanton-under-Bardon,
Leicestershire
(SK 4656 1010)**

Jennifer Browning



ULAS Report No 2012-071
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**An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation at Hallcroft Farm,
Stanton-under-Bardon,
Leicestershire
(SK 4656 1010)**

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For K. Clark

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 30th April 2012

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Summary

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at Hallcroft Farm, Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire (SK 4656 1010) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in April 2012. Despite the location of the site in an area of known earthworks, no archaeological deposits or finds were identified during the course of the work. However, it is possible that the area was previously stripped prior to use as a driveway. The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums under the accession number X.A50.2012.

Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010), this document presents the report for an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation and watching brief at Hall Croft Farm, Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire. It has been produced in response to a planning application following advice from the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Environment (LCCHNET) and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Planning permission has been granted for an extension and alterations to an existing outbuilding and erection of a garage (Planning Application No: 11/00951/FUL). As the site is located close to known archaeological remains, the Senior Planning Archaeologist recommended an archaeological strip, map and sample to be undertaken using a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, followed by archaeological excavation of any archaeological deposits with a contingency for recording and detailed excavation if required and a watching brief on any associated service trenches, as appropriate.

Location and Geology

Stanton-under-Bardon lies in the Hinckley and Bosworth District of Leicestershire, c. 10 miles north-west of Leicester (Figure 1). The development site is situated on land to the rear of 294 Main Street at the southern end of the village. It comprises an area of approximately 160 metres square, which has previously been used as a gravelled driveway, with a smaller area as part of a garden (Figure 3). The planning permission is for an extension and erection of a garage (Figure 4). The ground is fairly flat and located at an approximate height of 162m OD.

The underlying geology comprises mudstone bedrock (Edwalton member) with overlying Mid Pleistocene Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).

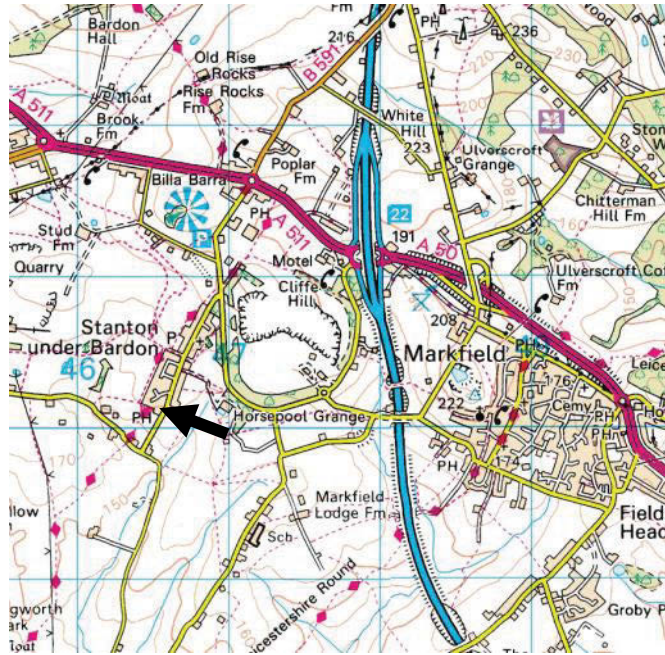


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The application site lies within an area of archaeological interest, located within the historic settlement core of Stanton under Bardon (MLE9184) in an area where recorded earthworks relating to the shrunken medieval village (MLE2950). These earthworks are likely to represent former enclosures and building plots, and are visible on aerial photographs of the area. An earthwork survey of the village (Hartley 2008) shows the existence of house platforms to the south of the site and an enclosure immediately to the west (Figure 2).

The village was mentioned in the Domesday Book and in previous times the lordship was associated with several religious houses in the county, including the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, Garendon and Leicester Abbey and Charley Priory (Nichols 1811, 991). The village is located to the west of Cliffe Hill granite quarry, which was opened in the middle of the 19th century and many of the extant houses were built in the Victorian period or later.

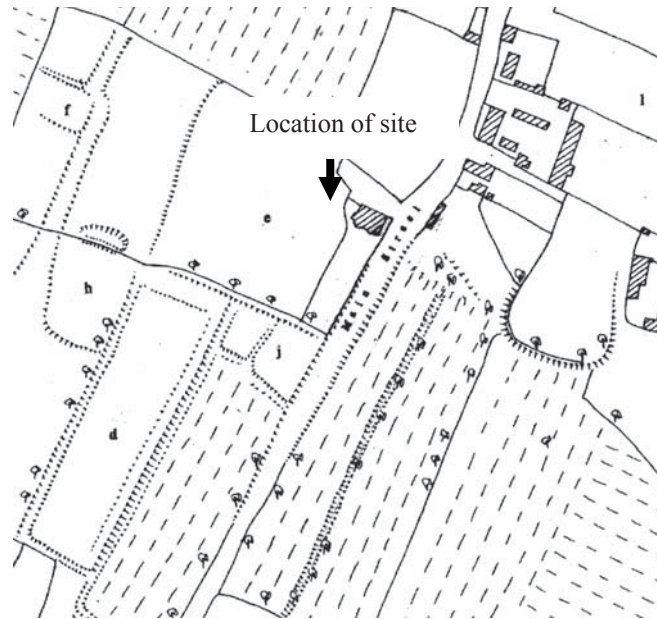


Figure 2: Extract from fig 47 (Hartley 2008, 61)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

Through archaeological controlled stripping and investigation the objectives of the archaeological investigation were:

- : 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

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008). *A Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (Job No: 12-331), setting out the background and methodology of the project, was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the supervision of groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works. The groundworks consisted of topsoil stripping and ground reduction to the appropriate level. The soil was removed using a JCB 3CX with a 1.6m ditching bucket.

Results

The site was attended on the 10th April 2012 when an L-shaped area of ground was stripped (Figure 3). The programme of work commenced with the removal of the gravelled driveway in the southwest corner. The top layer consisted of gravel and was 0.15m thick. The removal of this surface revealed disturbed ground with brick rubble on the south east side, close to the existing garden wall. Below this layer (0.15m thick) was the natural subsoil, bright orange/brown sandy clay with frequent small pebbles and gravel, interspersed with areas of red clay and mottled with pale yellow and dark orange sands (Figure 5).

The work encountered a land-drain on a north-south alignment and an electric cable running parallel with the fence (northeast-southwest). A rectangular hole in the centre of the stripped area contained a modern dump of brick rubble and metal debris.

The strip continued around the corner to the northeast on the current access road. The natural subsoil was exposed at 0.22m below group level and was more consistent in appearance than in the previous area, consisting of mottled pale yellow sandy clay. An electric cable crossed the area on a north-west south east alignment (Figure 3, Figure 5).

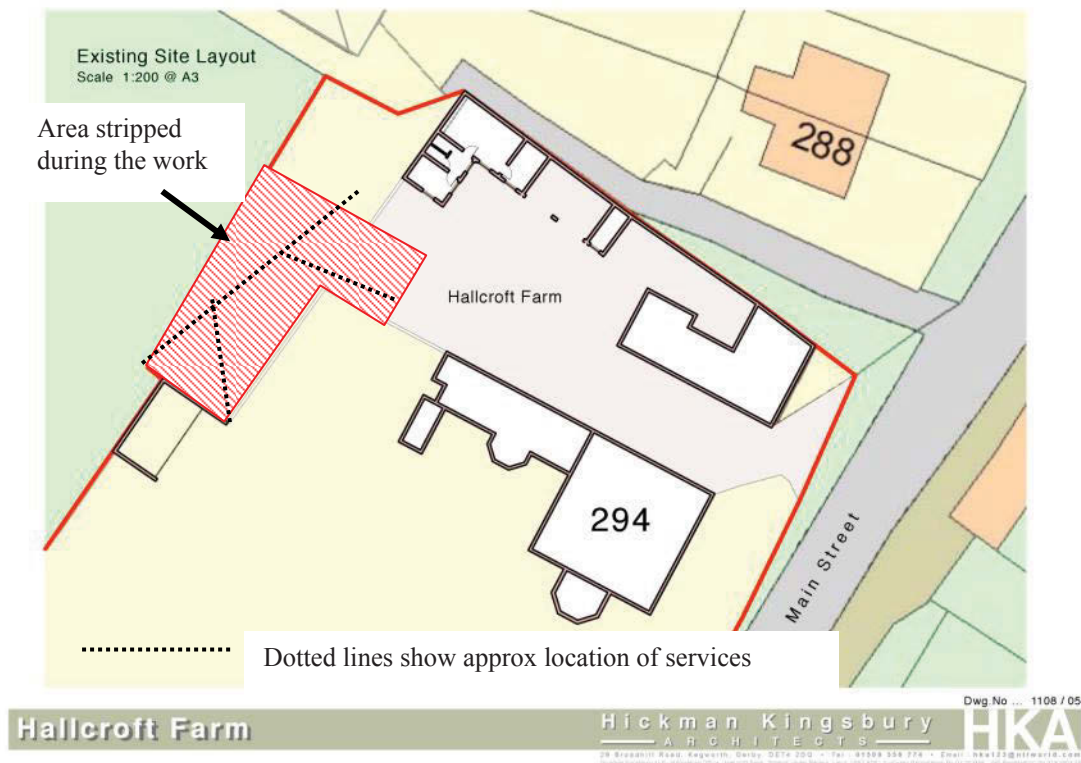


Figure 3: Existing site plan (supplied by client, Not to Scale)

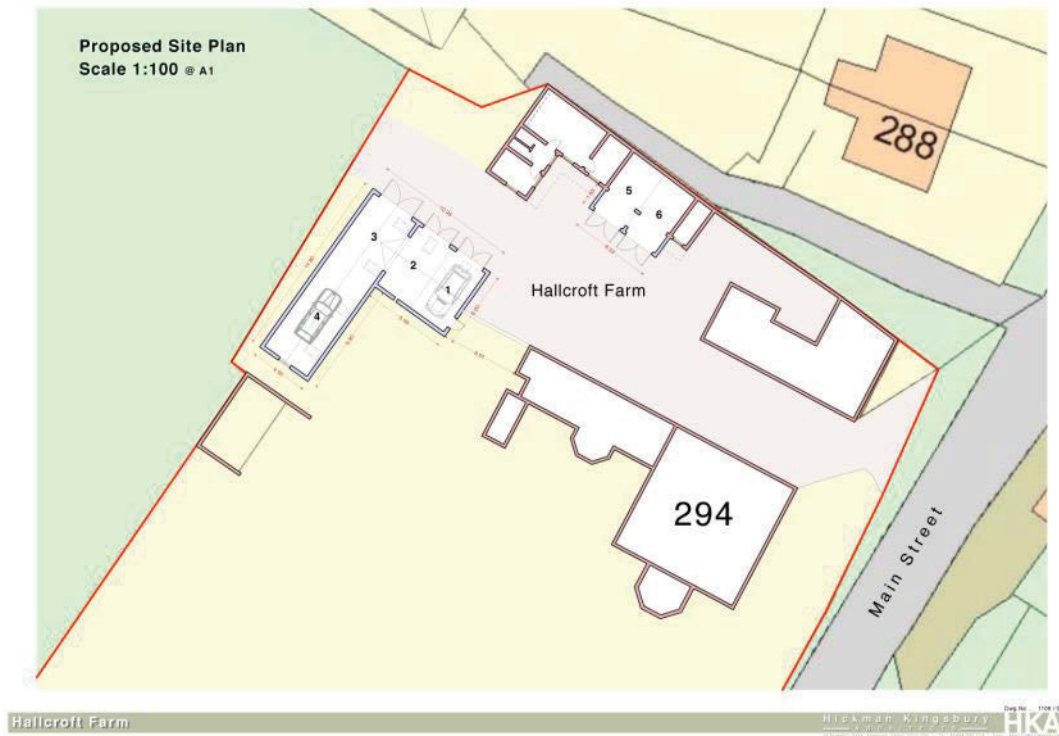


Figure 4: Proposed site layout (supplied by client, Not to Scale)



Figure 5: The stripped area

Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds were identified during this work. The site area has probably been previously stripped, prior to use as a driveway. Only modern brick debris, modern electric cables and a land-drain were revealed.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Richard Clark for his help and co-operation during the work. The project was managed by Vicki Score of ULAS.

References

Hartley, R.F. 2008 *The Medieval Earthworks of South-West Leicestershire: Hinckley and Bosworth* Edited by K. E. Elkin. Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group 2008 Monograph No. 2

IfA, 2008 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

IfA, 2010 *Code of Conduct*

Nichols, J. 1811 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* Vol IV

ULAS 2012 A Design Specification for Archaeological Work (Job No: 12-331).

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the Accession number X.A50 2012 and consists of the following:

Digital photographs

Black and white contact prints and negatives

Photo index

Site notes

Copy of report

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	Hallcroft Farm, Stanton under Bardon
Project Type	Strip, map and sample
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Jennifer Browning
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Access way and parking
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Permission granted
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 4656 1010
Start/end dates of field work	03.04.12
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	160m ²

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