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**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at Broadwheel Road,  
Helpston, Peterborough  
(TF 11748 05194)**



Roger Kipling

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at Broadwheel Lane, Helpston,  
Peterborough (TF 11748 05194)**

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**For: The Broadwheel Partnership Planning**

Approved by:

**Signed:**



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at land at  
Broadwheel Road, Helpston, Peterborough  
[NGR: TF 11748 05194]**

Roger Kipling

**Summary**

*An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken December 2013 at land to the north of Broadwheel Road, Helpston, Peterborough, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of The Broadwheel Partnership Planning. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to the granting of outline planning permission for the construction of residential housing.*

*The archaeological evaluation, comprising 17 30m by 2m trenches, at Broadwheel Road, Helpston, Peterborough, revealed no evidence of archaeological activity with the single exception of an undated truncated ditch at the northern end of the development area.*

*The site archive will be deposited with Peterborough City Council.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of Broadwheel Road, Helpston, Peterborough following the granting of outline planning permission by Peterborough City Council for the construction of 34 dwellings.

In consequence Peterborough City Council Archaeological Services (PCCAS) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority recommended the need for a further phase of archaeological investigation comprising a programme of evaluation trenching. The investigation was required in order to provide an adequate sample of the development area and to assess the likely archaeological impact of the development proposals. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2013).

The fieldwork specified was intended to provide further indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains might be assessed. Fieldwork was carried out in December 2013 and involved the machine excavation of 17 trial trenches in order to provide the 5% sample of the development area requested by the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Services (PCCAS) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

## Site Description, Topography and Geology

The application area lies at the west of Helpston village, west of residential development on Woodland Lea and north of Broadwheel Road. The site covers a c.2 ha. arable field south of a primary school. Topographically the site is reasonably level and lies at approx. 21m OD. It is centred on grid ref TF 11748 05194.

The geology maps indicate that the site comprises Cornbrash Limestone formations.

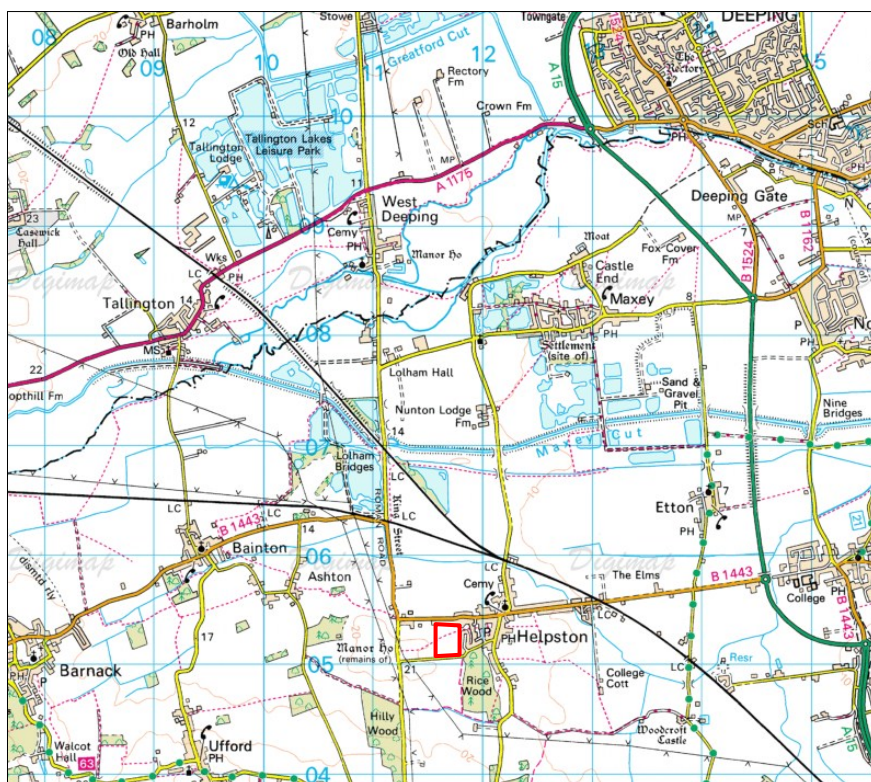


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

*Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495*

## Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development is located within the village core of Helpston. The Roman road, King Street and a scheduled medieval site (Torpel Manor SM PE223 HER

10006812) lie 300m to the east. Iron Age and Roman enclosures known from cropmarks lie within a 1km radius ('Brief' 2). There was therefore deemed to be potential for remains of archaeological interest to be present on the application site.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The archaeological evaluation was identified as having the potential to contribute to the following research aims (Medlycott 2011: Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

### *Late Iron Age (English Heritage 2010)*

There are Iron Age settlements in the vicinity of the area. Information on the sequence and chronology of settlements may be recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas.

### *The Roman Period*

There are several Roman sites close to the area including enclosures and a Roman road. The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Peterborough HER.

The design specification conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
- *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
- *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2010);

- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2010);
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Association of Local Government Officers, 2003);

## **Methodology**

### ***Archaeological Trial Trenches***

Following recommendations from the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA), Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken.

A c. 5% sample by trial trenching of the area comprised c. 1000m<sup>2</sup>, the equivalent of 17 30m by 2m trenches. The trench plan (Fig. 1) indicates the location of the trenches.

Topsoil and overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (c.1.8m wide), under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits.

The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record, utilising black and white negative film, supplemented by high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included:

- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;

Upon completion of the evaluation trenching, the excavated trenches were backfilled and loosely compacted.

## **Results**

As set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2013), 3834m<sup>2</sup> of archaeological trial trenches (17 trenches each 30 m in length and c.2m wide) were excavated. Excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.



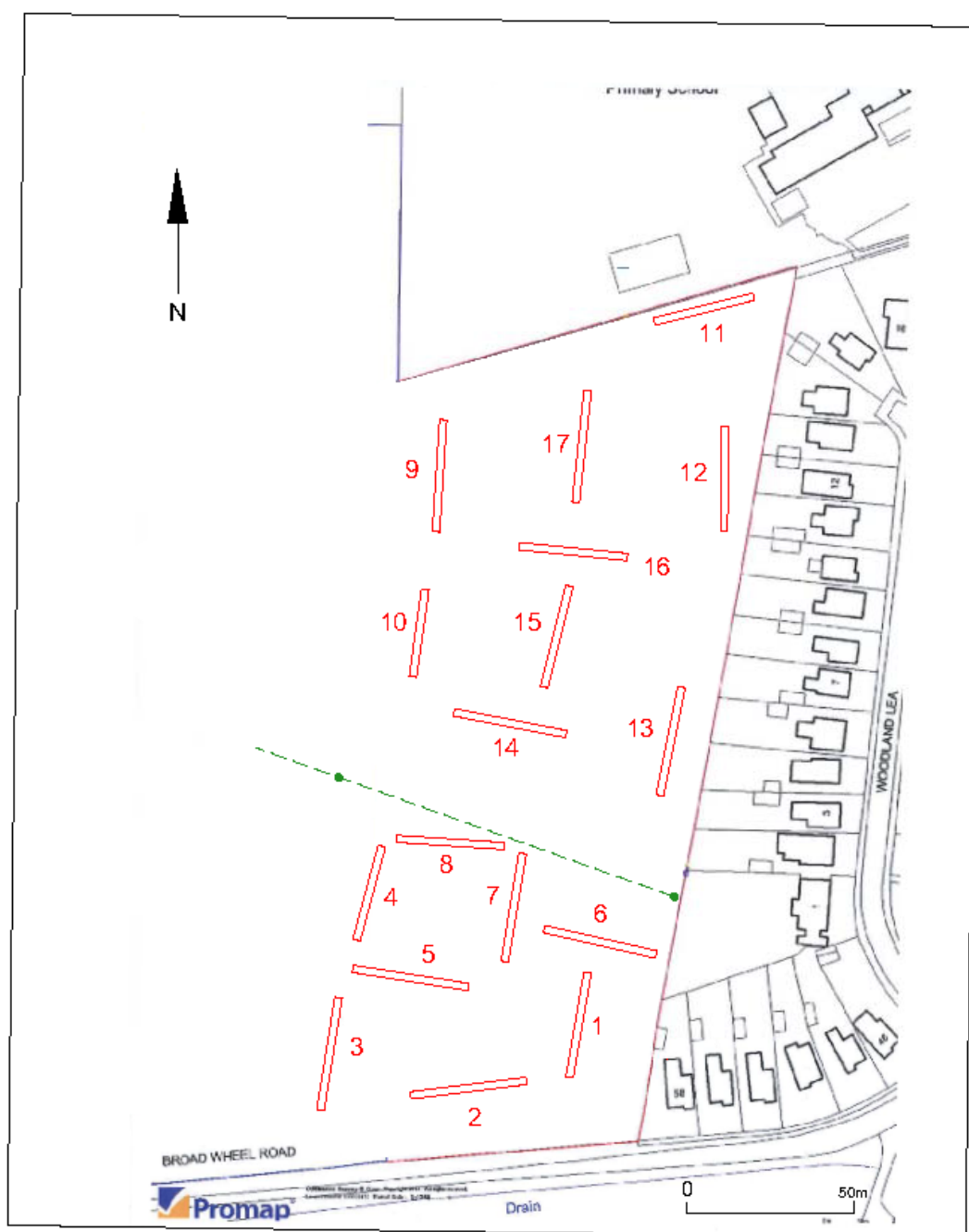


Figure 2: Helpston: trench location plan

The trenches, with a single exception (17) were archaeologically negative, and characterised by a thin (0.20m-0.40m) and friable mid grey-brown clay silt topsoil overlying 0.10m-0.30m of pale yellow or pale grey silty clay subsoil. The underlying natural limestone in a yellowish-brown silty clay matrix was heavily plough-shattered (see Figures 3-5 for examples).





Figure 3: Trench 4; view looking north-west (1m scale)



Figure 4: Trench 9; view looking north-east (1m scale)





Figure 5: Trench 13: view looking south-east (1m scale)

Trench 17, located at the northern end of the site, produced a single archaeological feature, an undated ditch cutting the natural limestone (Figures 6 & 7). The heavily-truncated linear feature [01] measured 0.53m wide, 0.12m deep and 5m+ in length, running diagonally across the trench on a northwest-southeast alignment. Its 30°-45° sides fell to a flat base, whilst its single pale grey silt fill (02) produced no finds.



Figure 6: Trench 17, ditch/gully [01]; view looking west (0.15m scale)



Figure 7: Trench 17, ditch [01]; view looking east (0.15m scale)

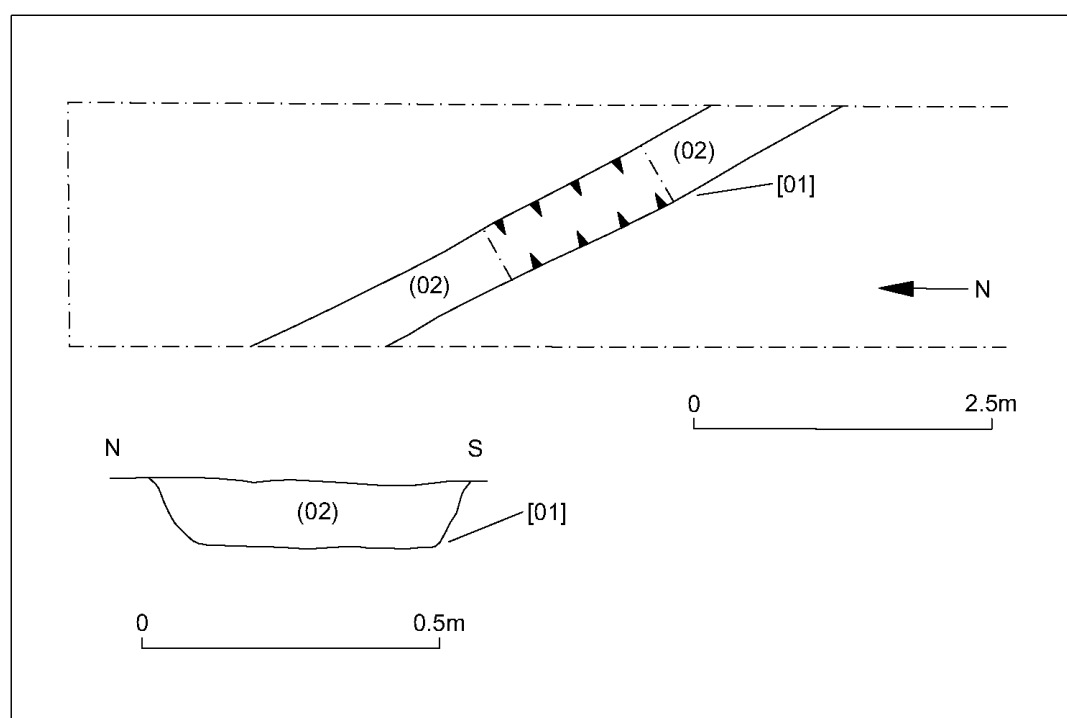


Figure 8: Trench 17, ditch [01] plan and section

## Discussions & Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at Broadwheel Lane, Helpston, Peterborough, revealed no indications of archaeological activity with the single exception of an undated truncated ditch.

Table 1 Details of the trenches

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.20-0.35m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.35-0.50
2	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.38-0.50
3	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.30m, subsoil 0.10-0.15m. No archaeological finds or features.	0.35-0.45
4	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.30-0.45
5	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.03-0.15m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.35-0.45
6	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.30m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.30-0.40
7	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.30m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.40-0.45
8	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.20-0.30m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.35-0.45
9	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.30-0.40m, subsoil 0.05-0.10m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.42-0.60
10	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.15-0.25m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.40-0.60
11	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.20-0.30m, subsoil 0.10-0.15m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.45-0.55
12	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.20-0.40m, subsoil 0.25-0.40m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.55-0.65
13	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.20-0.35m, subsoil 0.05-0.25m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.40-0.60
14	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.05-0.25m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.40-0.60
15	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.30-0.35m, subsoil 0.10-0.25m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.50-0.60
16	E-W	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.40m, subsoil 0.15-0.40m. No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.55-0.85
17	N-S	30 x 2	Topsoil 0.25-0.35m, subsoil 0.10-0.20m. Single undated truncated ditch [01]	0.42-0.60

## Archive and Publications

The site archive consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Peterborough Museums Service (Wass 2003).

The archive consists of:

- 17 trench recording sheets

- Photographic record indices
- 20 digital photographs
- 2 context record sheets
- Context record index
- 1 A2 drawing record sheet
- A risk assessment form

## **Publication**

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in an appropriate archaeological journal.

## **Acknowledgements**

Jon Coward and Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of The Broadwheel Partnership. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

## **Bibliography**

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IfA, 2010 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

ULAS, 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at Broadwheel Road, Helpston, Peterborough*

Wass, G., 2003 *Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Standards for Archaeological Archive*

## **Oasis Information**

Project Name	Land at Broadwheel Lane, Helpston, Peterborough
Project Type	Archaeological evaluation

Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Development
Current Land Use	Agricultural
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR TF 11748 05194
Start/end dates of field work	November 2013
Archive Recipient	Peterborough Museum
Study Area	2ha.

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