



University of
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Archaeological Services

An archaeological field
evaluation on land to the
north of Halstead Road,
Mountsorrel,
Leicestershire
(SK 574 145)

Leon Hunt



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on land to the north of
Halstead Road,
Mountsorrel,
Leicestershire
(SK 574 145)**

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for

Jelson Ltd

Checked by Project Manager

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An archaeological field evaluation on land to the north of Halstead Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (SK 574 145)

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the north of Halstead Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 574 145).

The work was commissioned by Jelson Ltd in advance of the development of the site for new housing. The site is currently arable fields.

The site lies in an area rich in archaeological remains and a field walking survey carried out by ULAS in 2010 located prehistoric flints tools mainly on the south-eastern edge of the site. It is this area that was the focus of the evaluation.

A total of 25 30m x 1.8m trenches was placed across the site. The topsoil across the site was shown to be uniform silty or sandy clay, over a subsoil of reddish brown silty clay. The natural sub-stratum was a brown-yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel.

A large amount of field drains were identified within the evaluation trenches, mainly running east to west. No archaeological features or finds relating to archaeological features were discovered.

The archive for this site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Ltd with accession number X.A15.2015.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Jelson Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land to the north of Halstead Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 574 145). Planning consent is to be sought for the development of the site for new housing (Planning App. No. P/13/1008/2).

The proposal is for a residential development of up to 200 houses with associated roads, landscaping, sports pitch and landscaped bund.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The evaluation covered one arable field of three that were proposed for the new development. The site lies in an area fairly rich in archaeological remains.

A field-walking survey carried out in 2010 recovered flint material of Neolithic-Bronze Age date within the evaluated field.

Location and Geology

Mountsorrel lies in the Charnwood District of Leicestershire, around 7 miles due north of Leicester. The site lies to the north of Halstead Road at the western edge of Mountsorrel (Figure 1).

At the time of the evaluation the land was covered in crop stubble

The site lies on land that falls slightly from north to south at a height of around 72m aOD. The evaluation was focussed on the southern part of a larger field covering 5.5 hectares.

The British Geological Survey website shows that the geology of the site would comprise Oadby Member Diamicton overlying Edwalton Member Mudstone.

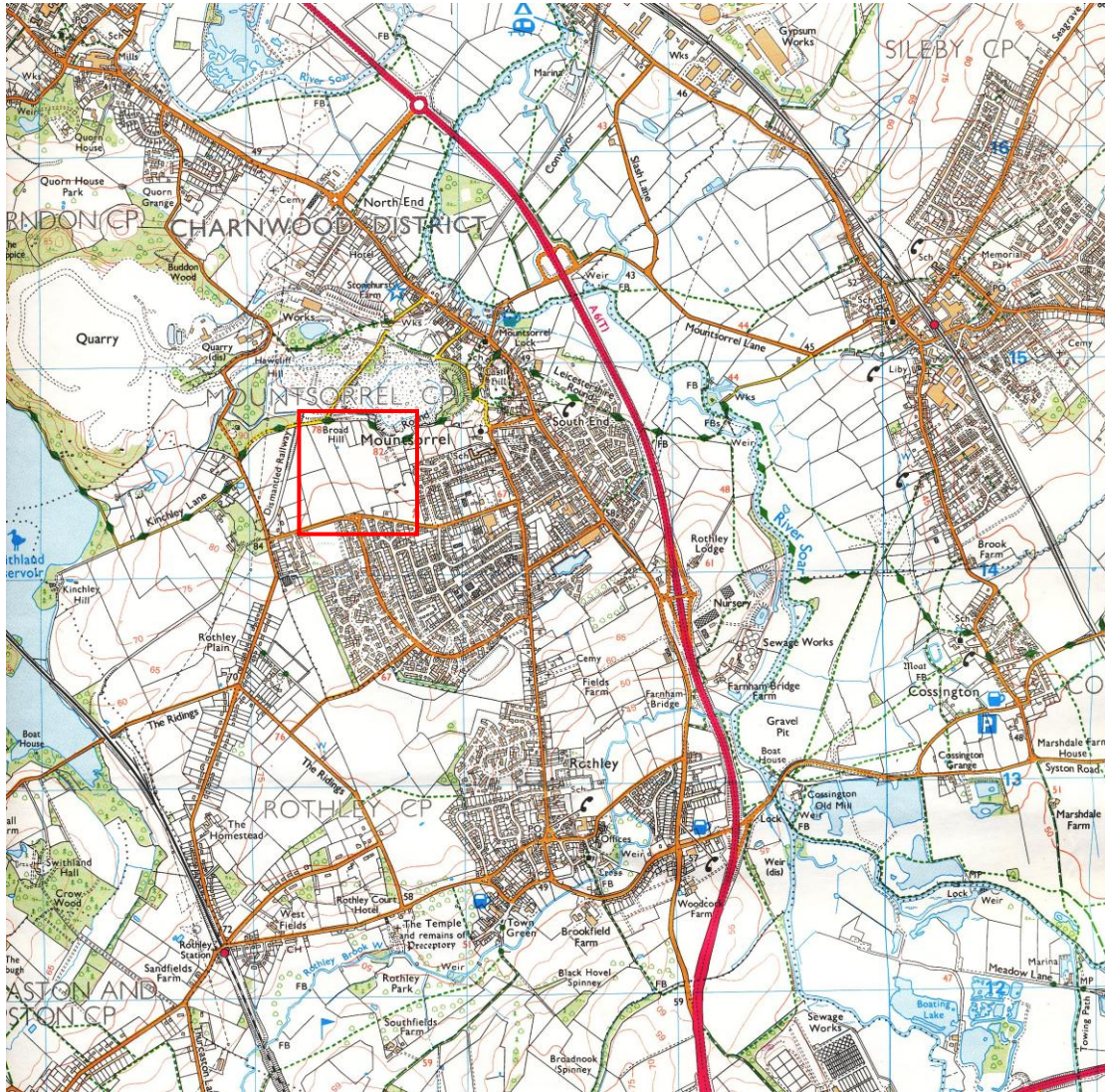


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment was produced for the site by ULAS in 2009 (Clarke 2009). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland was consulted. The findings are summarised thus, with the HER reference numbers indicated in bold in the text:

Prehistoric

The site lies immediately to the south of Mountsorrel Quarry where a number of prehistoric archaeological sites have been recorded. An undated, but probably prehistoric, circular mound of 15m in diameter was recorded during the 1980s, located 300m north of the application area (**MLE713**). To the east of this, a number of finds recovered during the late 19th century indicate the site of a Bronze Age cemetery (**MLE716**). Around 500m to the north-west of the application area is a Neolithic and Bronze Age site (**MLE708**), recorded through evaluation in 1994.

On the southern side of Halstead Road, to the south of the application area, a scraper or arrowhead was recovered from a mound of possible prehistoric origin (**MLE8848**). To the east of this, a Bronze Age spearhead was recovered from a garden at around the same time (**MLE6283**). Scatters of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint (**MLE907**) and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint (**MLE908**) have been found through fieldwalking, close to Brickyard Farm, located 800m to the south-west of the application area. Fieldwalking of the application area did locate flint material of Neolithic-Bronze age date in the south-eastern part of the application area (Speed 2010).

Roman

Between 1879 and 1892 a number of Roman deposits were recorded in Mountsorrel Quarry, including two ‘burial chambers’ and a well, with numerous associated artefacts indicating the nearby presence of an occupation site of some significance (**MLE710**). Two Roman coins (**MLE7754**), featuring Hadrian and Julia, were recovered from Bronze Age deposits located within the quarry and described above. A scatter of Roman pottery was recorded through fieldwalking in 1991, some 500m north-west of the site (**MLE720**). Subsequent evaluation in 1994 yielded more pottery but no associated earth-fast features were found.

Anglo-Saxon

Two Anglo-Saxon loomweights were found during the quarrying of Mountsorrel Hill in 1898, approximately 400m north-east of the application area (**MLE6104**) and an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch of the 6th/7th century was found in the 1990s, on the housing estate to the south of Halstead Road (**MLE6106**).

A geophysical survey was carried out on the entire proposed development site (three fields) in 2010. This was largely inconclusive (Ladocha 2010).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 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 is 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.

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



Figure 2: Plan of proposed development area (red) with area evaluated (blue)

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The WSI asked for 25 x 1.8m trenches (a 5% sample of the area) within the site. The work was undertaken between 9th February and 11th February 2015.

The trenches were excavated by a large tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Plate 1). After recording the trenches were backfilled.

The orientation of the proposed trenches, as illustrated in the WSI, was varied in angle in order to avoid the network of field drains that crossed the site. The trench positions were also moved slightly to cover blank areas of the field after the initial negative results.



Figure 3: Plan of trench locations



Plate 1: Work in progress, looking north

Results

Trench 01

Orientation: East-West

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.33m	0.25m	0.23m	0.29m	0.32m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.18m	0.07m	0.08m	0.10m	0.11m	0.12m
Top of natural substratum	0.36m	0.51m	0.32m	0.31m	0.39m	0.43m	0.40m
Base of trench	0.41m	0.60m	0.39m	0.38m	0.45m	0.45m	0.48m

A number of field drains running north-east to south-west were uncovered in this trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 02

Orientation: East- west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.32m	0.29m	0.26m	0.23m	0.27m	0.26m

Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.13m	0.12m	0.11m	0.14m	0.12m	0.12m
Top of natural substratum	0.39m	0.45m	0.41m	0.37m	0.37m	0.39m	0.38m
Base of trench	0.46m	0.56m	0.55m	0.44m	0.49m	0.48m	0.41m

A number of field drains running north-west to south-east were uncovered in this trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 03

Orientation: East - west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.24m	0.28m	0.26m	0.25m	0.26m	0.27m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.09m	0.12m	0.16m	0.16m	0.18m	0.18m	0.19m
Top of natural substratum	0.33m	0.40m	0.42m	0.41m	0.44m	0.45m	0.44m
Base of trench	0.40m	0.54m	0.49m	0.49m	0.54m	0.56m	0.53m

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 04

Orientation: North- south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.28m	0.26m	0.27m	0.26m	0.24m	0.23m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.13m	0.11m	0.12m	0.15m	0.15m	0.16m
Top of natural substratum	0.39m	0.41m	0.37m	0.39m	0.41m	0.39m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.54m	0.50m	0.45m	0.48m	0.49m	0.44m	0.49m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 05

Orientation: North- south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.28m	0.31m	0.30m	0.29m	0.24m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.11m	0.12m	0.12m	0.14m	0.12m	0.15m	0.12m
Top of natural substratum	0.37m	0.40m	0.43m	0.44m	0.41m	0.39m	0.38m
Base of trench	0.41m	0.47m	0.50m	0.48m	0.46m	0.43m	0.43m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 06

Orientation: North- south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.28m	0.29m	0.28m	0.32m	0.31m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.13m	0.19m	0.16m	0.14m	0.14m	0.12m
Top of natural substratum	0.42m	0.41m	0.48m	0.44m	0.46m	0.45m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.45m	0.48m	0.54m	0.55m	0.54m	0.54m	0.47m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 07

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel



Plate 2: Post- excavation view of Trench 07; with field drain running length of trench, looking east

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.31m	0.33m	0.29m	0.31m	0.33m	0.29m	0.33m
Subsoil Depth	0.11m	0.10m	0.08m	0.12m	0.09m	0.09m	0.16m
Top of natural	0.42m	0.43m	0.37m	0.43m	0.42m	0.38m	0.49m
Base of trench	0.44m	0.53m	0.43m	0.49m	0.49m	0.48m	0.57m

A field drain running east to west was uncovered in the trench (Plate 2). No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 08

Orientation: North-south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.23m	0.26m	0.22m	0.25m	0.28m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.09m	0.12m	0.09m	0.11m	0.09m	0.08m	0.13m
Top of natural	0.39m	0.35m	0.35m	0.33m	0.34m	0.36m	0.41m
Base of trench	0.48m	0.36m	0.46m	0.39m	0.41m	0.40m	0.49m

A field drain running east to west was uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 09

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.33m	0.36m	0.33m	0.35m	0.36m	0.28m	0.29m
Subsoil Depth	0.16m	0.18m	0.15m	0.17m	0.15m	0.20m	0.14m
Top of natural	0.49m	0.54m	0.48m	0.52m	0.51m	0.48m	0.43m
Base of trench	0.61m	0.69m	0.58m	0.64m	0.59m	0.59m	0.50m

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 10

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.29m	0.31m	0.32m	0.29m	0.26m	0.33m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.19m	0.15m	0.15m	0.17m	0.13m	0.11m
Top of natural	0.44m	0.48m	0.46m	0.47m	0.46m	0.39m	0.44m
Base of trench	0.52m	0.54m	0.58m	0.55m	0.53m	0.52m	0.49m

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 11

Orientation: North - south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.25m	0.26m	0.26m	0.27m	0.27m	0.27m
Subsoil	0.11m	0.14m	0.12m	0.09m	0.11m	0.12m	0.12m

Depth							
Top of natural	0.39m	0.39m	0.38m	0.35m	0.38m	0.39m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.44m	0.43m	0.45m	0.45m	0.43m	0.48m	0.51m

Two field drains were uncovered in the trench running east to west. No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 12

Orientation: East- west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.27m	0.19m	0.26m	0.29m	0.26m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.19m	0.13m	0.12m	0.09m	0.08m	0.14m	0.09m
Top of natural	0.44m	0.40m	0.31m	0.35m	0.37m	0.40m	0.35m
Base of trench	0.52m	0.49m	0.36m	0.39m	0.40m	0.42m	0.37m

No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 13

Orientation: North- west to south-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel



Plate 3: Post-excavation view of Trench 13, looking north-west

Interval	NW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.31m	0.30m	0.24m	0.23m	0.22m	0.30m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.11m	0.11m	0.15m	0.12m	0.13m	0.14m
Top of natural	0.41m	0.41m	0.35m	0.38m	0.34m	0.43m	0.42m
Base of trench	0.44m	0.45m	0.41m	0.46m	0.40m	0.54m	0.49m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench (Plate 3). No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 14

Orientation: South-west to north-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.31m	0.22m	0.24m	0.29m	0.25m	0.23m
Subsoil Depth	0.08m	0.11m	0.16m	0.15m	0.16m	0.16m	0.18m
Top of natural	0.40m	0.42m	0.38m	0.39m	0.45m	0.41m	0.41m
Base of trench	0.42m	0.48m	0.44m	0.48m	0.49m	0.47m	0.48m

Two field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 15

Orientation: East-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.29m	0.28m	0.30m	0.26m	0.31m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.14m	0.16m	0.12m	0.08m	0.12m	0.08m
Top of natural	0.46m	0.43m	0.44m	0.42m	0.34m	0.43m	0.35m
Base of trench	0.56m	0.52m	0.52m	0.44m	0.39m	0.44m	0.38m

Two field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 16

Orientation: North-south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.25m	0.23m	0.23m	0.28m	0.31m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.09m	0.13m	0.18m	0.12m	0.14m	0.17m
Top of natural	0.41m	0.34m	0.36m	0.41m	0.40m	0.45m	0.45m
Base of trench	0.47m	0.45m	0.46m	0.46m	0.43m	0.52m	0.53m

Five field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 17

Orientation: South-east to north-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	NW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.22m	0.24m	0.27m	0.24m	0.26m	0.30m

Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.16m	0.17m	0.10m	0.13m	0.13m	0.14m
Top of natural	0.40m	0.38m	0.41m	0.37m	0.37m	0.39m	0.44m
Base of trench	0.46m	0.44m	0.52m	0.44m	0.46m	0.45m	0.49m

Two field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 18

Orientation: East- west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	W 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m E
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.25m	0.22m	0.20m	0.27m	0.26m	0.32m
Subsoil Depth	0.17m	0.14m	0.15m	0.14m	0.14m	0.19m	0.11m
Top of natural	0.43m	0.39m	0.37m	0.34m	0.41m	0.45m	0.43m
Base of trench	0.50m	0.47m	0.45m	0.40m	0.52m	0.57m	0.49m

A field drain running east to west was uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 19

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.29m	0.30m	0.27m	0.29m	0.28m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.16m	0.17m	0.12m	0.21m	0.11m	0.13m	0.18m
Top of natural	0.42m	0.46m	0.42m	0.48m	0.40m	0.41m	0.44m
Base of trench	0.49m	0.50m	0.46m	0.54m	0.48m	0.47m	0.51m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 20

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.24m	0.27m	0.27m	0.25m	0.28m	0.29m	0.27m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.14m	0.16m	0.12m	0.13m	0.17m	0.15m
Top of natural	0.39m	0.41m	0.43m	0.37m	0.41m	0.46m	0.42m
Base of trench	0.44m	0.46m	0.47m	0.43m	0.44m	0.53m	0.53m

Two field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 21

Orientation: North-south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.25m	0.24m	0.26m	0.26m	0.28m	0.29m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.18m	0.11m	0.15m	0.11m	0.13m	0.18m
Top of natural	0.42m	0.43m	0.35m	0.41m	0.37m	0.41m	0.47m
Base of trench	0.48m	0.48m	0.41m	0.46m	0.43m	0.46m	0.55m

Two field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 22

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NW
Topsoil Depth	0.22m	0.25m	0.27m	0.23m	0.23m	0.24m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.09m	0.12m	0.13m	0.15m	0.12m	0.15m	0.11m
Top of natural	0.31m	0.37m	0.40m	0.38m	0.35m	0.39m	0.36m
Base of	0.33m	0.39m	0.45m	0.45m	0.40m	0.47m	0.45m

trench							
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No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

Trench 23

Orientation: South-east to north-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NW
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.31m	0.24m	0.26m	0.26m	0.29m	0.22m
Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.10m	0.15m	0.13m	0.15m	0.12m	0.11m
Top of natural	0.38m	0.41m	0.39m	0.39m	0.41m	0.41m	0.33m
Base of trench	0.47m	0.44m	0.46m	0.47m	0.47m	0.43m	0.39m

Three field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 24

Orientation: South-east to north-west

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NW
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.26m	0.29m	0.28m	0.27m	0.29m	0.23m

Subsoil Depth	0.11m	0.10m	0.09m	0.11m	0.14m	0.08m	0.12m
Top of natural	0.39m	0.36m	0.38m	0.39m	0.41m	0.37m	0.35m
Base of trench	0.46m	0.42m	0.44m	0.43m	0.44m	0.45m	0.39m

Four field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 25

Orientation: North- south

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay/ sandy clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with occasional medium and large sub-rounded pebbles

Natural substratum: Brownish yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil Depth	0.23m	0.27m	0.23m	0.24m	0.26m	0.27m	0.24m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.17m	0.17m	0.11m	0.15m	0.15m	0.15m
Top of natural	0.36m	0.44m	0.40m	0.35m	0.41m	0.42m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.42m	0.56m	0.44m	0.39m	0.44m	0.46m	0.45m

Four field drains running east to west were uncovered in the trench. No archaeological features were revealed (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Post-excavation view of Trench 25, looking north-east

Conclusion

The topsoil and subsoil across the site was very uniform consisting of around 0.30m of dark greyish brown silty or sandy clay. This lay over around 0.10m-0.20m of reddish or yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil. The natural sub-stratum was also very uniform across the site consisting of brownish yellow clay with some patches of reddish brown sand and sand and gravel.

A network of ceramic field drains ran across the site from east to west. These were disturbed by the excavation of the trenches and in places made their excavation quite difficult. Therefore, the orientation of the trenches was adjusted so that the drains were angled across the trench, causing fewer problems with excavation.

Despite there being flint material recovered from the fieldwalking no archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation at Halstead Road, Mountsorrel. A worked flint and a piece of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the topsoil, but these were discarded as they were clearly unstratified and were not associated with any archaeological features.

This is typical of most lithic scatters in Britain which have resulted from discard over long periods of time resulting in a 'background noise' of lithic material (Schofield 1991; English Heritage 2000). Earthfast features associated with lithic scatters are rare in plough zone areas such as Leicestershire (Clay 2006, 70).

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Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS data entry

Project Name	Halstead Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	Field-walking/ Geophysical Survey
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 574 145
Start/end dates of field work	09-02-2015 to
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums

Study Area	5.5 ha
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Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A15.2015.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report 2015-025)
- 1 Unbound copy of desk-based assessment report (ULAS Report 2009-139)
- 25 Trench recording sheets
- 2 Contact sheets of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Set B&W contact sheets
- 1 Set B&W negatives

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