



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire.**

(SP 94449 85595)

Gavin Speed



ULAS Report No 2015-086
©2015

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
43 High Street, Brigstock,
Northamptonshire.
(SP 94449 85595)**

Gavin Speed

for:

CgMs Consulting

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 18/05/2015

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614

ULAS Report Number 2015-086

©2015

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Site Location, Geology and Topography.....	1
3. Aims and Methods.....	3
4. Historical and Archaeological Background.....	3
5. Evaluation Results	3
6. Conclusion	6
7. Archive	6
8. Publication	6
9. References	7
10. Acknowledgements	7

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location within the UK and county of Northamptonshire	2
Figure 2: Site Location (shaded) within Brigstock.....	2
Figure 3: Trench plan (base plan adapted from client).....	4
Figure 4: Trench 1, 1m scale	5
Figure 5: Trench 2, 1m scale	5
Figure 6: Trench 2 viewed from the west (left). 1m scale.....	5
Figure 7: Trench 1 southern section showing alluvium (right) 1m scale.....	5

An archaeological evaluation on land at 43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire

Gavin Speed

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire (SP 94449 85595) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The evaluation revealed that the area had previously been subject to considerable disturbance and no archaeological finds or deposits were present.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 43 High Street, Northamptonshire (SP 94449 85595; Figs. 1-2) on 13th May 2015. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development (planning application EN/12/01862/FUL).

Northamptonshire County Council as archaeological advisors to East Northamptonshire Borough Council planning authority have requested an archaeological evaluation to assess the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development. This evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*.

2. Site Location, Geology and Topography

Brigstock is a small village around 6km south-east of Kettering, and 32km north-east of Northampton (Figs. 1-2). Brigstock lies on the side of a shallow valley carrying Harpers Brook. The site lies towards the northern end of the settlement (SP 94449 85595) and on the western side of High Street. The development area is a former farmyard which has also been used for light industrial purposes. It is bordered by pasture to the north, a watercourse to the west beyond which is a playing field, and residential properties to the south.

The site is 2.1ha in size, the ground generally sloping down in a south-westerly direction from 57.9m above O.D. at the eastern roadside, to 55.04m above O.D. at the western edge close to the brook.

The site is currently unused with a large stone barn occupying the central space and a stone house lies to the southern edge. Elsewhere there is a large warehouse to the south. Half of the area to the north of the stone barn has clearly been significantly landscaped, with up to 1m of ground levelled off.

The British Geological Survey maps indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to consist of Rutland Formation Argillaceous rocks with subordinate Sandstone and Limestone, overlain by alluvial sands, silts, clays and gravels. This was confirmed by a borehole survey undertaken in January 2015 (Carrinton 2015).



Figure 1: Site Location within the UK and county of Northamptonshire



Figure 2: Site Location (shaded) within Brigstock

Reproduced from *Explorer*® 1:25 000 scale, by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2010 All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

3. Aims and Methods

The aims of this evaluation were as follows:

- 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 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. Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that would demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area. All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). A *c.* 3% sample by trial trenching of the area of impact was proposed comprising *c.* 64 square metres, the equivalent of two 20m by 1.6m trenches. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural undisturbed substratum.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within the northern end of the area of historic settlement. Brigstock originated as the centre of a Saxon royal estate, and the church of St. Andrew retains 10th to 11th century fabric. Early development of the settlement seems to have been around the church and the manor, towards the south of the modern settlement (Clay 2015). The village acquired a market in the 15th century but never developed a secure urban commercial base and its market was in decline by the early 17th century (*ibid*). The development site lies within an area identified by Foard as a medieval tenement. Geotechnical surveys (Carrington 2015) indicate a degree of truncation (which was to be expected given its history as a farmyard) and a thick alluvium across the site.

5. Evaluation Results

Two evaluation trenches were opened in areas with the least disturbance on site (Figure 3).

Trench 1 (Figure 4) was located on the north side of the stone barn on a grassed area near to the street frontage. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 9.5m in length and 1.6m in width. It was shorter than the proposed 20m due to severe site constraints (an overhead telegraph wire and live foul sewer pipe). The topsoil was 0.33 – 0.6m thick and was mixed with and disturbed by concrete and bricks. Below this was a mid yellow-brown silt-clay alluvium, this was *c.* 1m thick. Natural substratum was reached at 1.33-1.4m and consisted of a yellow clay mixed with gravels (Rutland formation). No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.

Trench 2 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) was located on the south side of the stone barn on a grassed area. The trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 14m in length

and 1.6m in width. It was shorter than the proposed 20m due to site constraints (reinforced concrete to the north and south). The topsoil was 0.22m – 0.77m thick and was mixed and disturbed by concrete and bricks. Below this was a mid yellow-brown silt-clay alluvium, this was *c.* 0.28-0.78m thick. The alluvium became thicker towards the west-end (closer to the brook). Natural substratum was reached at 0.92-1.15m and consisted of a yellow clay mixed with gravels (Rutland formation). No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.

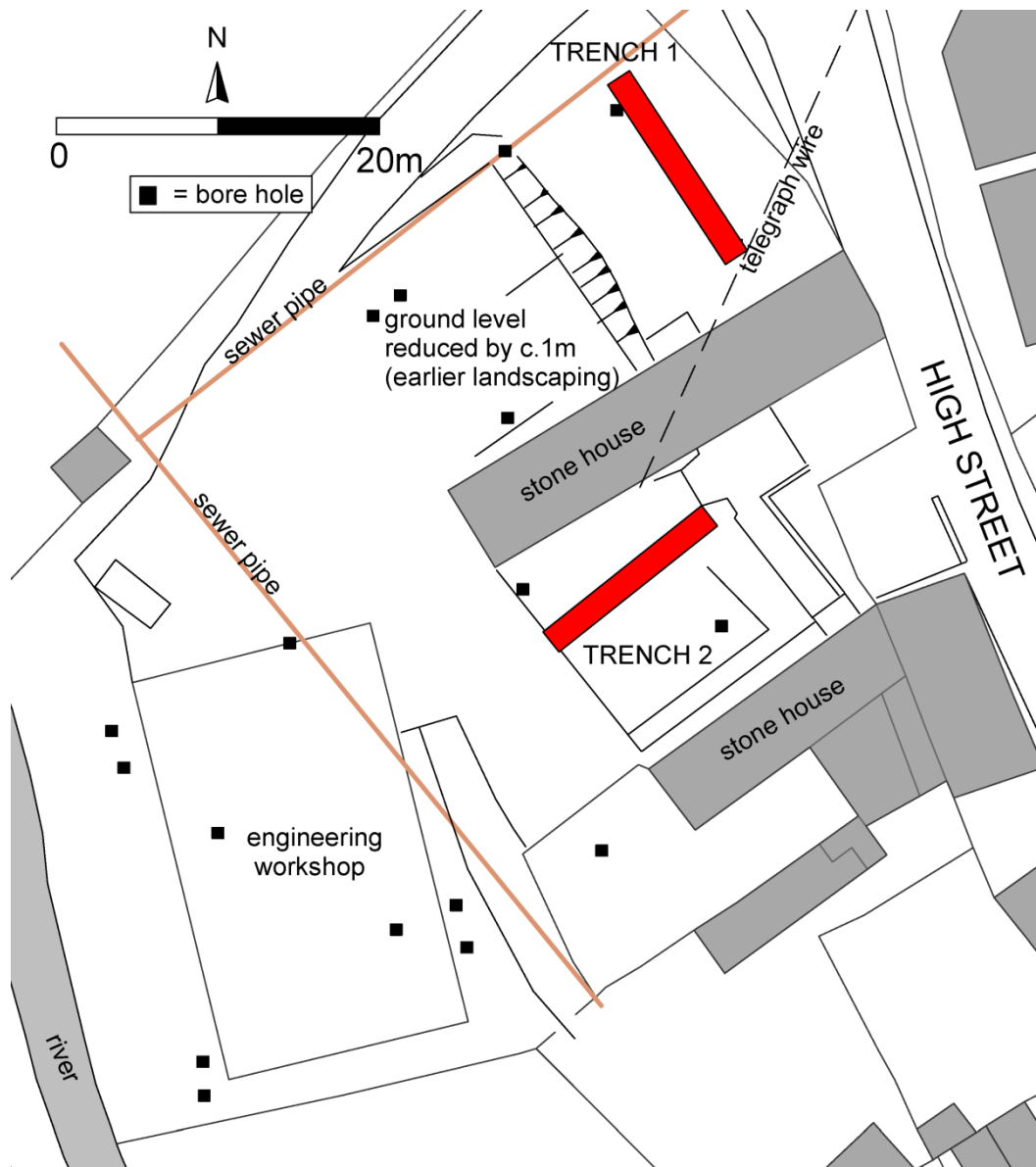


Figure 3: Trench plan (base plan adapted from client)



Figure 4: Trench 1 viewed from the north-west (left). 1m scale
 Figure 5: Trench 1 south-eastern section showing alluvium (right) 1m scale



Figure 6: Trench 2 viewed from the west (left). 1m scale
 Figure 7: Trench 1 southern section showing alluvium (right) 1m scale

6. Conclusion

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 43 High Street, Northamptonshire (SP 94449 85595) in May 2015. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development (planning application EN/12/01862/FUL). The archaeological evaluation showed that her area had been disturbed in the past and revealed no archaeological finds or deposits. The topsoil overlay a clean alluvial deposit overlying in turn Rutland formation gravels.

7. Archive

The site archive will be held by ULAS under accession number ENN107964 until an appropriate recipient organisation is established for Northamptonshire.

The archive contains:

- 2 trench recording sheets
- photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs, report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs

The report is 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/> record number: OASIS ID: universi1-211297.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	<i>land at 43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire</i>
Summary	<i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire (SP 94449 85595) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or deposits.</i>
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: none. / Future: uncertain
Current Land Use	Farmyard
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	<i>SP 94449 85595</i>
Height OD	<i>55.04-57.9m above OD</i>
Start/end dates of field work	13/05//2015
Archive Recipient	To be arranged
Postcode	NN14 3HA
Study Area	2.1ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: ENN107964 OASIS form ID: universi1-211297

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Northamptonshire Archaeology* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

9. References

- Carrington, R. 2015, *Proposed Residential Development 43 High Street Brigstock Ground Investigation Report*. Soiltechnics, unpublished report STL2898A-G01.
- CIfA, 2014 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)
- Clay, P. 2015, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at 43 High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire*. ULAS 15-711.
- NARC, 2014 . *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard* Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre. June 2014.
- NCC 2015 *Brief For A Programme Of Archaeological Evaluation Of Land At 43, High Street, Brigstock, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire County Council
29.04.2015

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken for CgMs Consulting, and was carried out by Dr Gavin Speed, Dr Patrick Clay managed the project. ULAS would like to thank Mike Dawson of CgMs from CgMs Consulting for help and assistance during the fieldwork. Liz Mordue (County Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council) monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

Dr Gavin Speed BA MA MCIfA
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: gs50@le.ac.uk
15-05-2015

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas

