



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on land South of Beveridge Lane,
Bardon Hill, Coalville,
Leicestershire**



NGR: 445584 311663

Gavin Speed

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**An Archaeological Evaluation
on Land South of Beveridge Lane,
Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire
(SK 445550 311650)**

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For: CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Approved by:

Signed



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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the south of Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire (SK 445550 311650). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development. Geophysical survey across the site had identified some potential features and some trenches were located to target these anomalies. However, the evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features, the anomalies seemingly relate to modern plough disturbance.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service, under accession no. XA.45.2015.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for CgMs Consulting Ltd in May 2015 on land to the south of Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire (SK 445550 311650). This was undertaken in line with a condition attached to outline planning permission granted by North West Leicestershire District Council for construction of a manufacturing or distribution unit, along with associated parking and lorry loading bays (14/00069/OUTM).

An archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. A 2% sample of the Site was requested to be evaluated by trial-trenching to include possible anomalies identified by geophysical survey as well as 'blank' areas across the Site. The work was required to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact of the proposed development upon them.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The Site is located on land to the south of Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 445550 311650; Figs 1 and 2). It is bounded to the north by Beveridge Lane, to the east by residential plots, to the south by South Lane, and to the west by West Lane. The Site comprises two arable fields separated by a hedgerow (c. 5.8ha), and there is a significant decrease in level from the north-eastern corner to the south-western corner. Within the western field levels fall from 188.02m AOD at Beveridge Lane to 177.48m AOD at the junction of South Lane and West Lane; within the eastern field the

decrease is less pronounced, with levels falling from 189.88m AOD to 183.50m AOD (CgMS 2012, 8).

There is an extensive industrial park on the northern side of Beveridge Lane and a business park to the west of West Lane. Land to the south has been quarried, whilst land to the east is undeveloped (CgMS 2012, 1.3).

The majority of the Site is underlain by Triassic mudstone of the Edwalton Member formation. There is a thin band of Cotgrave Sandstone Member that extends across the northeastern corner of the Site and there is Gunthorpe Member Mudstone to the north of this. Superficial geology comprises Quaternary Oadby Member Diamicton rock (CgMS 2012, 3.0).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMS 2012) identified that there are no Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens in close proximity to the Site. A moderate potential for Prehistoric artefactual evidence had been identified, along with a low potential for all other periods. Previous archaeological investigation of adjacent sites has recorded a low level of archaeological activity (CgMS 2012, 3). The site does lie adjacent to two Roman roads, one extending west - east from Coalville High Street across Beveridge Lane towards the Via Devana (**MLE16545**), and the other (**MLE9876**) to the east (CgMS 2012, 11).

A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2012 (Bartlett 2012). This showed a spread of isolated potential archaeological features across the Site. A small number of magnetic anomalies were identified which show some of the characteristics of potential archaeological features. These have rounded profiles which may indicate silted pits, and are also of suitable dimensions and were identified as potentially of archaeological origin. They are widely dispersed across the site, but there are no groups or clusters as might be expected at an ancient settlement site. There is also no evidence for associated ditches or enclosures as might typically be expected at a Roman roadside settlement (Bartlett 2012, 3).

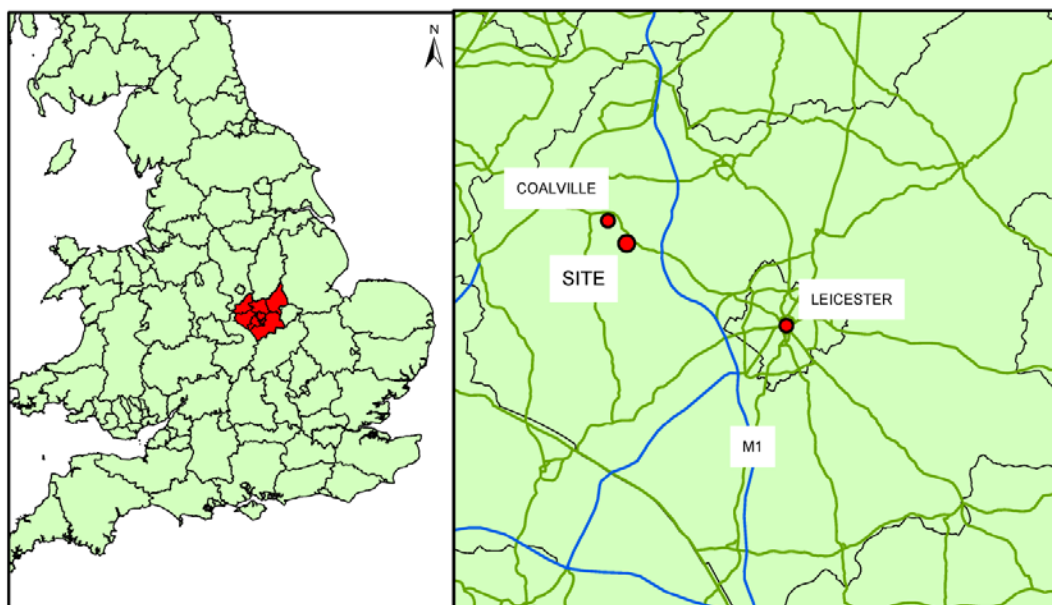


Figure 1: Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire



Figure 2: Detailed site location plan

Reproduced from the Explorer 233 Leicester & Hinckley area 1:25 000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

4. Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site as indicated by the geophysical survey.
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To allow the planning authority to make an informed decision on the planning application as advised by Leicestershire County Council.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between any structures/remains identified, and the relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Leicestershire.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (CgMS 2015) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

Constraints on the site included overhead cables running from north-west to south-east and a public footpath running from north-south in the eastern part of the site.

6. Results

Twelve trenches were excavated spread across the development site (Fig. 3). All were approximately 50m in length and 1.8m wide. Some trenches were located to target geophysical anomalies, while others were placed to test apparently blank areas and the extent of any archaeological remains.

In all trenches there was a thin topsoil (c. 0.20-0.35m deep); there was no subsoil visible in any of the trenches. The natural substratum consisted of a mid-yellow clay with patches of

gravel and ironstone fragments. Table 1 lists each trench with its dimensions and description and a sample of the trenches are shown in Figs 4-6.

No archaeological finds or deposits were identified in any of the 12 trenches. Plough scars were visible in most trenches and many contained modern slate land drains (for example Trench 12; Fig. 6). An extant field boundary was located in Trenches 11 and 12 (Fig. 6). This corresponds with a former field boundary running east-west and shown on the 1884 OS map (CgMS 2012, Fig. 3), which remained visible on maps until 1991 (ibid, Fig. 6).



Figure 3: Trench location plan with geophysical survey underlain.
(plan supplied by client)

Table 1: Trench details

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	DESCRIPTION	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (m)
1	NE-SW	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.26-0.28
2	NW-SE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.29-0.33
3	NE-SW	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.28-0.34
4	NW-SE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.2-0.34
5	NE-SW	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Plough scars.	0.24-0.34
6	NW-SE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Plough scars.	0.26-0.33
7	N-S	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits.	0.27-0.33
8	NNE-SSW	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.26-0.35
9	N-S	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.22-0.32
10	NNW-SSE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Land drains N-S. Plough scars.	0.26-0.32
11	NNW-SSE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Plough scars. Former hedge / field boundary at south-end.	0.29-0.39
12	NE-SW & SW-SE	50	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits. Plough scars. Former hedge / field boundary at west-end.	0.21-0.33



Figure 4: Trench 4 (left) looking south-east, Trench 6 (right) looking north-west



Figure 5: Trench 7 (left) looking south, Trench 9 (right) looking north



Figure 6: Trench 11 (left) looking north-west, Trench 12 (right) looking south-east.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed no archaeological evidence. The excavated trenches have shown a high degree of plough truncation, with shallow topsoil and clear plough scars into the natural substratum, this is the likely interpretation of the targeted geophysical anomalies.

The archaeological trial trench evaluation has successfully addressed the aims and objectives and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and this report.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service*, under accession no. *XA.45.2015*.

The archive contains:

- 12 trench recording sheets
- photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and 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/>, under OASIS record number: universi1-211582.

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	land to the south of Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire
Summary	The evaluation revealed no archaeological finds or features.
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: geophysics. / Future: uncertain
Current Land Use	Field
Development Type	Industrial
Reason for Investigation	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Pre-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 445550 311650
Postcode	LE67 1TB
Start/end dates of field work	18/05/2014-19/05/2014
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Study Area	5.8ha
Height OD (min – max)	177.48-188.02
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.45.2015 OASIS form ID: universi1-211582

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 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.

10. Bibliography

- Bartlett, A. 2012, *Site at Beveridge Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Bartlett Clark Consultancy.
- CgMs, 2012, *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment Land South of Beveridge Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire*. CgMs Consulting CP/13884.
- CgMs, 2015, *Archaeological Project Design and Specification Land South of Beveridge Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire*. CgMs Consulting CP/13884.

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd and was carried out by Dr Gavin Speed and Donald Clarke of ULAS. Vicki Score managed the project. ULAS would like to thank Philip Bethell from CgMs Consulting Ltd for help and assistance during the fieldwork. Richard Clark of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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