



University of **Leicester**

Archaeological Services

Archaeological Evaluation At
Field No. 7858, Melton Road,
Long Clawson, Clawson, Hose and Harby
Leicestershire, NGR: SK 72244 25841

Donald Clark



ULAS Report No.2015-159

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**Archaeological Evaluation at
Field No. 7858 Melton Road, Long Clawson,
Clawson, Hose and Harby, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 72244 25841**

**Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council
Planning Application Number: 15/00547/OUT**

Client: HSSP Architects

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 30.10.2015

Name: Patrick Clay

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report No. 2015-159

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Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on land occupying the north of Field No. 7858 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Clawson, Hose and Harby, Leicestershire, prior to proposed redevelopment of the land (Planning Application No. 15/00547/OUT). The archaeological work was requested by the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the client, HSSP Architects, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment). No archaeological features were revealed by the trial trench evaluation, but some medieval and Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession Number X.A115.2015.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to possible development of land occupying the north of Field No. 7858 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Clawson, Hose and Harby, Leicestershire, and was carried out on the 22nd and 23rd October 2015 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The proposed development is for the construction of ten residential dwellings, public open space, an access road and all necessary services (Planning Application No. 15/00547/OUT). The archaeological work was carried out on behalf of the client, HSSP Architects, as part of a pre-planning enquiry. Ten trenches were positioned within the proposed development area to determine any possible impact upon archaeological deposits or features that may survive.

Location and Geology

The site is located within a field of open grassland adjacent to the southern boundary of Coronation Avenue, on the western edge of Long Clawson in the parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby. The village of Long Clawson is situated 10km north-west of Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the bedrock geology consists of Charmouth mudstone formation formed during the Jurassic Period.



Figure 1: Long Clawson location map with application area in red

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Figure 2: Site location

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Archaeological and Historical Background

The village features in the 1086 Domesday Book as Clachestone, The name may derive from the Old English *tūn*, meaning settlement, and a Scandinavian personal name *Clac* (Ekwall 1989), although the first element may be referring to the topography of the area and derive from the Old English *clacc* or Old Danish *Klak*, meaning hill (Fellows-Jensen 1978).

According to Nichols (1795, II I, 130-4), there were two distinct lordships recorded for Long Clawson or Long Claxton as earlier named. These were held by Robert de Toden and Robert the Usher. For both, the value of their holdings was the same in 1086 as it had been under Edward the Confessor. The church was given to Belvoir priory, and land was also donated to both Belvoir Priory and Croxton Abbey. In 1564 there were 57 families dwelling in the parish. In the 1722 general elections, 62 freeholders polled from the parish. The lordship was enclosed in 1779 and the curious custom of the tithe loaf was recorded by Nichols, whereby each family donated to the vicar 8 pounds of bread, once a quarter. Rather than being part of the ordinary church tithes this supposedly began as an act of charity by the parishioners, which fossilised into an obligation (Gnanaratnam 2008).

The name Long Clawson, which refers to the fact that the village has a main street over one mile in length with fourteen bends, appears to have been in common use since 1830.

No relevant archaeological investigation has taken place in the proposed development area. However, the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the

sites lies in an area of archaeological interest although no records of heritage assets are known from within a 500m radius of the application area (H. Wells pers.comm.).

Aims and Methods

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of 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

The work adhered to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as historic environment advisors to the planning authority. The archaeological work also followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological excavations* (2014). Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are detailed in the WSI.

The trial trenches were excavated by a JCB excavator using a 1.60m ditching bucket under the direction of a ULAS archaeologist. Ten trenches were excavated, nine measuring approximately 30m in length and 1.60m in width and one measuring 20m in length and 1.60m in width. No archaeological features were disturbed during the assessment.

Results

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 22nd and 23rd October 2015 at land adjacent to the southern boundary of Coronation Avenue, on the western edge of Long Clawson, Leicestershire.

Ten trenches were laid out on the site with various orientations targeting the proposed residential development and their excavation by machine down to the natural substratum was closely observed.

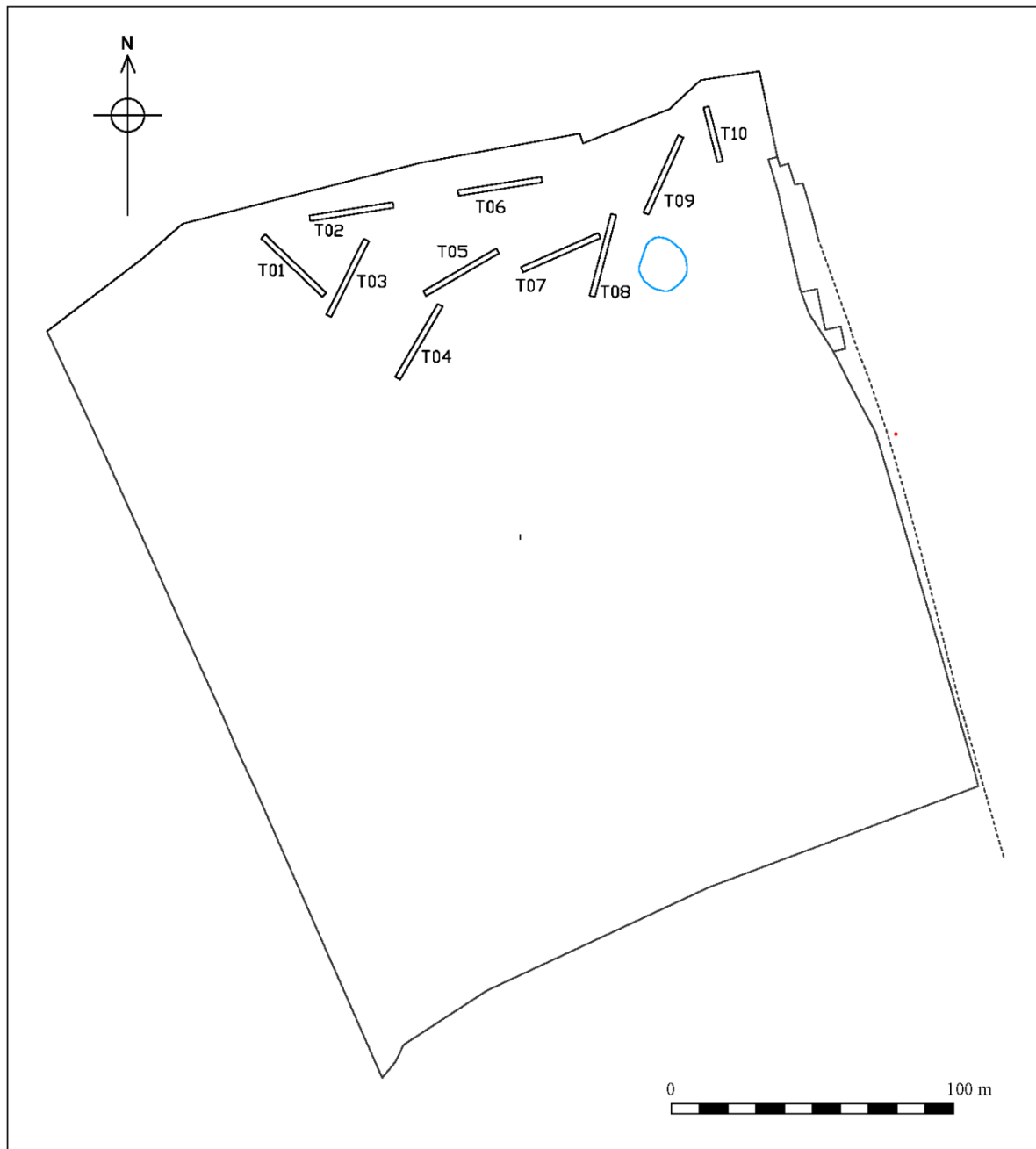


Figure 3: Trench plan

Trench T1

Trench T1 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural sub-stratum of orange-brown clay with occasional angular pebbles, ironstone and sandstone fragments. The sub-stratum was overlain by an orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey-brown silty-clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: West-North-West to East-South-East

Length: 29.80m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	WNW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	ESE 30m
Topsoil Depth	0.12m	0.18m	0.20m	0.18m	0.20m	0.14m	0.15m
Subsoil Depth	0.22m	0.14m	0.08m	0.11m	0.10m	0.12m	0.22m
Top of Natural	0.34m	0.32m	0.28m	0.29m	0.30m	0.26m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.38m	0.30m	0.32m	0.32m	0.27m	0.40m



Figure 4: Trench T1

Trench T2

Trench T2 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum of mid-orange clay with patches of sand containing sandstone fragments. The substratum was overlain by an orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty-clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: South-West to North-East

Length: 29.50m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m	0.20m	0.30m	0.22m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.13m	0.11m	0.13m	0.13m	0.18m	0.17m
Top of Natural	0.35m	0.33m	0.29m	0.33m	0.43m	0.40m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.35m	0.30m	0.34m	0.43m	0.40m	0.40m



Figure 5: Trench T2

Trench T3

Trench T3 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum of a mid-orange brown clay with rounded pebbles and fragments of sandstone. The substratum was overlain by a light orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: North-west to South-east

Length: 29.20m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	NNE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	SSW 30m
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Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.15m	0.22m	0.18m	0.15m	0.17m
Subsoil Depth	0.11m	0.13m	0.19m	0.11m	0.11m	0.12m	0.12m
Top of Natural	0.31m	0.33m	0.34m	0.33m	0.29m	0.27m	0.29m
Base of Trench	0.35m	0.33m	0.34m	0.33m	0.30m	0.30m	0.33m



Figure 6: Trench T3

Trench T4

Trench T4 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising an orange-brown clay with patches of mottled grey clay and ironstone fragments. The substratum was overlain by a mid-orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: North-East to South-West

Length: 29.80m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	NE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	SW 30m
Topsoil	0.16m	0.15m	0.20m	0.16m	0.15m	0.20m	0.18m

Depth							
Subsoil Depth	0.19m	0.16m	0.12m	0.10m	0.09m	0.05m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.35m	0.31m	0.32m	0.26m	0.24m	0.25m	0.28m
Base of Trench	0.39m	0.37m	0.35m	0.30m	0.30m	0.32m	0.30m



Figure 7: Trench T4

Trench T5

Trench T5 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising a mottled orange brown and grey clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. The substratum was overlain by an orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty-clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: West-South-West to East-North-East

Length: 29.00m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	ENE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	SWS 30m
Topsoil Depth	0.15m	0.15m	0.14m	0.14m	0.16m	0.18m	0.23m

Subsoil Depth	0.17m	0.11m	0.18m	0.12m	0.14m	0.08m	0.06m
Top of Natural	0.32m	0.26m	0.32m	0.26m	0.30m	0.26m	0.29m
Base of Trench	0.34m	0.30m	0.38m	0.30m	0.33m	0.30m	0.29m



Figure 8: Trench T5

Trench T6

Trench T6 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising a mottled yellow and grey brown clay with patches of ironstone and medium pebbles. The substratum was overlain by a grey brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey brown silty-clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: South-West to North-East

Length: 29.10m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	NE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	SW 29.10m
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.18m	0.19m	0.22m	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m
Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.14m	0.16m	0.14m	0.14m	0.09m	0.08m

Top of Natural	0.34m	0.32m	0.35m	0.36m	0.34m	0.29m	0.26m
Base of Trench	0.34m	0.32m	0.36m	0.36m	0.35m	0.33m	0.30m



Figure 9: Trench T6

Trench T7

Trench T7 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising mixed and mottled grey clay with patches of orange clay. The substratum was overlain by a mid-orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey brown silty-clay topsoil. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: East-North-East to West-South-West

Length: 28.90m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	ENE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	WSW 28.90m
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.23m	0.19m	0.20m	0.23m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.07m	0.06m	0.09m	0.07m	0.14m	0.13m	0.12m
Top of Natural	0.27m	0.26m	0.32m	0.26m	0.34m	0.36m	0.37m

Base of Trench	0.30m	0.40m	0.37m	0.30m	0.38m	0.40m	0.37m
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Figure 10: Trench T7

Trench T8

Trench T8 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising banded and mottled grey clay with patches of orange clay and pockets of ironstone. The substratum was overlain by a mid-orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey brown silty-clay topsoil. A modern water-pipe was exposed midway in the trench. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: North-North-East to South-South-West

Length: 30.10m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	NNE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	SSW 30m
Topsoil Depth	0.21m	0.22m	0.25m	0.30m	0.25m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil Depth	0.16m	0.13m	0.11m	0.12m	0.10m	0.10m	0.09m
Top of Natural	0.37m	0.35m	0.36m	0.42m	0.35m	0.30m	0.29m

Base of Trench	0.37m	0.38m	0.40m	0.42m	0.37m	0.34m	0.33m
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Figure 11: Trench T8

Trench T9

Trench T9 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising banded and mottled grey clay with patches of orange clay and pockets of ironstone. The substratum was overlain by a light orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey brown silty-clay topsoil. A modern water-pipe was exposed at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: North to South

Length: 27.80m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	S 30m
Topsoil Depth	0.17m	0.15m	0.18m	0.19m	0.20m	0.17m	0.19m
Subsoil Depth	0.08m	0.05m	0.12m	0.08m	0.11m	0.03m	0.07m
Top of Natural	0.25m	0.20m	0.30m	0.27m	0.31m	0.20m	0.26m
Base of Trench	0.25m	0.20m	0.30m	0.28m	0.33m	0.22m	0.27m



Figure 12: Trench T9

Trench T10

Trench T10 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising banded and mottled grey clay with patches of orange clay and pockets of ironstone. The substratum was overlain by a mid-orange brown silty-clay subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a light grey brown silty-clay topsoil. A modern water-pipe was exposed at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Orientation: North to South

Length: 18.20m

Width: 1.60m

Interval	N 0m	5m	10m	15m	S 18.20m
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.18m	0.22m	0.20m	0.17m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.10m	0.09m	0.15m	0.11m
Top of Natural	0.33m	0.28m	0.31m	0.35m	0.28m
Base of Trench	0.33m	0.28m	0.33m	0.38m	0.28m



Figure 13: Trench T10

The Finds Deborah Sawday

The pottery, 22 sherds, weighing 213 grams was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS Roman and medieval fabric series (Connor and Buckley1999; Sawday 2009). Also present were two pieces of post-medieval tile and a fragment of daub.

The results are shown below (Table 1). Most of the pottery was abraded and with a low average sherd weight except for the medieval material from trench 10, which might suggest the survival of archaeological levels in the vicinity.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context U/S	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Comments
POT				
Trench 1	NO2 – Nottingham ware	1	9	Abraded, glazed – white bodied, ‘transitional’ from splashed into green glazed ware, c.1230-1280
Trench 1	OS2 – Oxidised Sandy	1	2	Possibly a transitional Nottingham splashed war

				?12-13 th C.
Trench 3	EA6 – Black ware	1	22	c.1650-1750
Trench 4	NO2 – Nottingham ware	1	12	Abraded, – white bodied, ‘transitional’ from splashed into green glazed ware, c.1230-1280
Trench 6	ST – Stamford	3	8	Join –white bodied small jar rim & neck, 12 th -13 th C.
Trench 6	ST – Stamford	1	18	Body, white fabric, knife trimmed & sooted/burnt externally, sooted/burnt, 12 th -13 th C.
Trench 6	NO – Nottingham ware	1	11	Everted jar rim in a light bodied gritty ware c.1350-15 th C.

Trench 6	EA - Earthenware	1	3	Flower pot base - modern
Trench 7	OS2 – Oxidised Sandy	1	2	Traces of glaze on exterior, or possibly a transitional Nottingham splashed ware, ?12-13 th C.
Trench 9	ST – Stamford	1	1	White bodied, 12 th -13 th C
Trench 9	NO2 – Nottingham ware	1	6	Abraded, c.1230-1280
Trench 10	C2NV – Colour Coat	2	10	Beaker - Roman
Trench 10	SP – Nottingham Splashed ware	1	29	Base – flattish – traces of external glaze,, c.1100-1250
Trench 10	NO3 – Nottingham ware	5	75	Some joins – splayed base, reduced black internally, later 13 th – 14 th C.
Trench 10	EA - Earthenware	1	5	Abraded fragment, post med-modern
MISC.				
Trench 1	Earthenware	1	20	Tile – post med
Trench 7	Earthenware	1	9	?daub
Trench 10	Earthenware	1	40	Tile – post med

Site/ Parish: Melton Rd, Long Clawson, Leics Accession No.: XA115 2015 Document Ref: lon clawson2.docx Material: pot/cbm Site Type: open field near village	Submitter: D. Clark Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 29.10.2015 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number:
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Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 22nd and 23rd October 2015 at land adjacent to the southern boundary of Coronation Avenue, on the western edge of Long Clawson, Leicestershire.

Ten trenches were excavated, none of which contained any archaeological features, although some Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil. The diffuse interface between topsoil, subsoil and natural suggests little disturbance to area. The depth of soil deposits and surviving ridge and furrow within the development area suggest the area has been used as pasture for a prolonged period. The Roman and medieval pottery was probably introduced by manuring the fields during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Archive

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession No. X.A115.2015. The archive will contain site notes, digital photographs and photo index.

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 will be added to the Archaeology Data Services (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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Donald Clark
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 261
Email dcc21@le.ac.uk

28.10.2015

OASIS Information

ID universi1-228354	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Land to the north-west of Acresford Road, Donisthorpe, Leicestershire
Summary	<i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land occupying the north of Field No. 7858 Melton Road, Long Clawson, Leicestershire, prior to redevelopment of the land (Planning Application No. 15/00547/OUT). The archaeological work was requested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the client, HSSP Architects, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment). No deposits of archaeological origin were revealed by the trial trench evaluation. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession Number X.A115.2015.</i>
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Donald Clark
Previous/Future work	
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Construction of new housing development
Reason for Investigation	Planning condition
Planning application number	15/00547/OUT
Site Co ordinates	SK 72244 25841
Start/end dates of field work	22nd to 23rd October 2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services

ULAS 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



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