



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at
10 The Green, Clipston, Northamptonshire.
NGR: SP 71086 81718**

Andrew McLeish



ULAS Report No. 2015-064

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**An archaeological evaluation on land at 10 The Green, Clipston,
Northamptonshire**

NGR: SP 71086 81718

Andrew McLeish

For: Mrs Julia Connell.

Planning application No. DA/2014/0924

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 22.04.2015

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ULAS Report Number 2015-064

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on April 20th 2015 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mrs Julia Connell on land at 10 The Green, Clipston, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development of the site. The evaluation trenches revealed one small, shallow natural feature but were otherwise negative for any archaeology.

The physical archive will be retained by ULAS under the accession number ULAS-15605 pending the provision of an appropriate recipient body. Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) has issued the event identification number ENN107960 for the site.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological trial-trench evaluation carried out on land at 10 The Green, Clipston, Northamptonshire. The work was carried out on behalf of Mrs J. Connell by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on April 20th 2015.

The proposed development is for a single house on land currently used as car parking, garden and a stable Planning application No. DA/2014/0924

The work was requested by the Northamptonshire Planning Archaeologist in their capacity as archaeological advisor to Northamptonshire County Council, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. This is detailed in their Evaluation and Investigation 'Briefs' (NCC 2014a and 2014b). The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (hereinafter WSI) prepared by ULAS (Clay 2015)

Geology and Topography

The natural substratum comprises mid-Pleistocene till overlying Whitby Mudstone

Historical and Archaeological Background

The village and parish contain well-preserved examples of settlement earthworks, much of which has now been designated as a Scheduled Monument, including the area immediately to the west of the application site. The modern village is also surrounded by areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, indicative of the pre-Enclosure open field system.

The area of the site is at the southern end of what appears to be the second stage in the development of the village (RCHM 1981). This is an apparently planned extension containing three parallel north-south streets, two of which survive as Chapel Lane and Harborough Lane. The third may still be partly visible as a hollow way equidistant between them, and to the north of the development site. Any occupation on the development site may therefore have fronted on to this road.

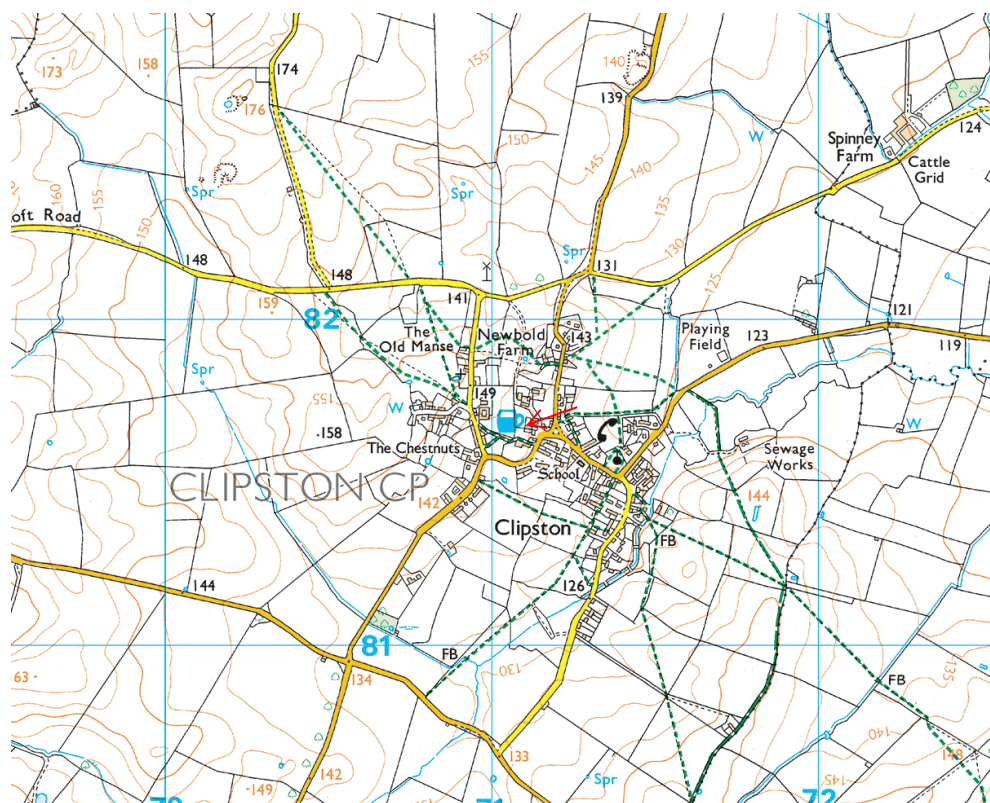


Figure 1: Site location (arrowed)

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Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The brief requested archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. In view of the constraints on site the WSI proposed the excavation of two 8 metre trenches along the northern and eastern edges of the proposed development. Most of the area of the footprint of the proposed building has already been impacted upon by block paving.

The trenches were laid out, and then excavated using a three ton mini-digger with a c.1.4m wide, toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

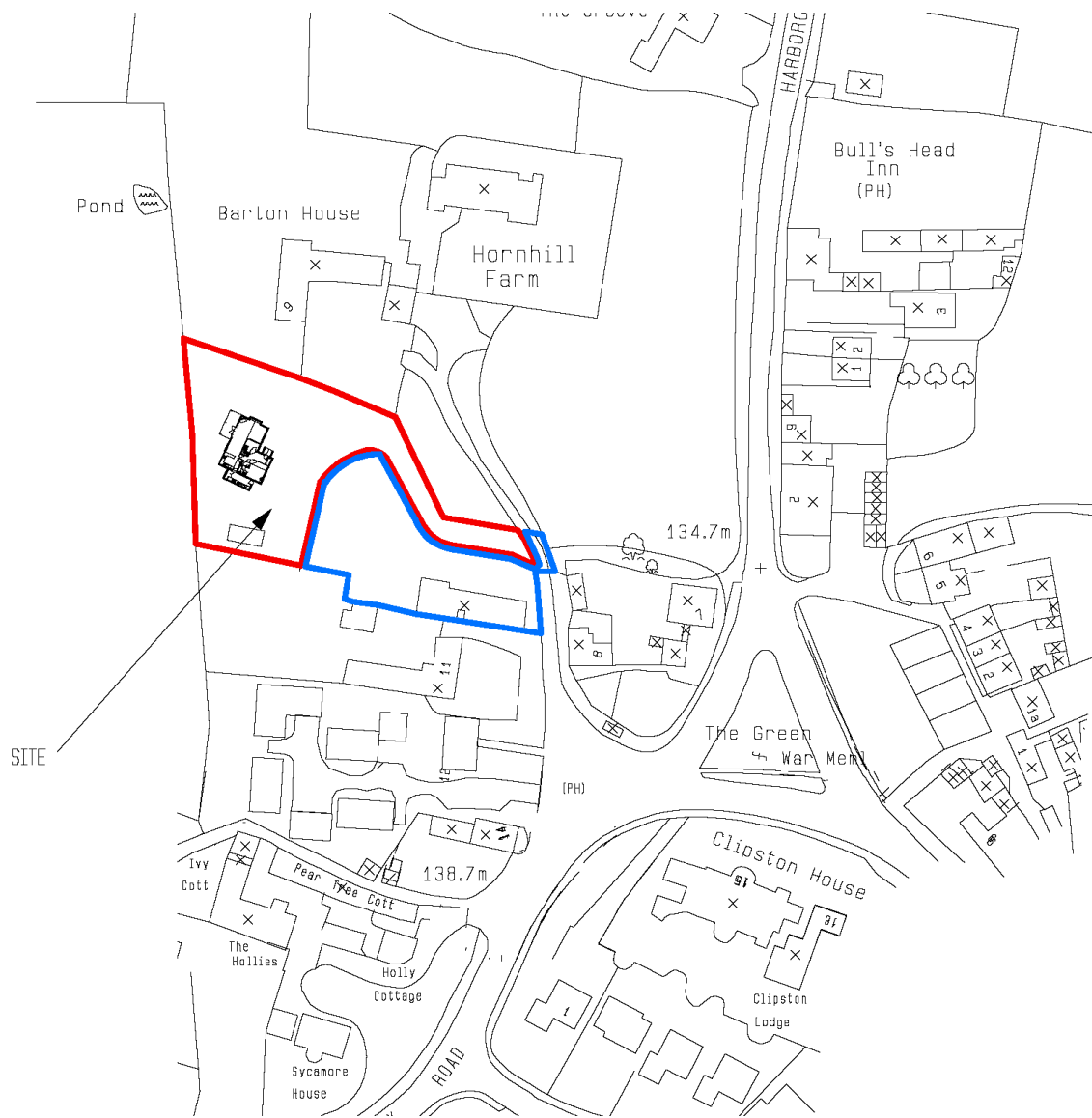


Figure 2: Location map with development area highlighted



Figure 3: Vertical aerial view of Site showing trench locations.



Figure 4: Plan of proposed new dwelling in relation to location of trenches

The trenches, other exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were to be visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features, if present, were to be hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms whilst all stratigraphic units would be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate. Archaeological features if present would be drawn to a scale of 1:20, trench plans to a scale of 1:50 and sections to a scale of 1:10. The trenches were located in relation to prominent features within the property and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All work followed the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations*.

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the Northern edge of the existing car park area. The trench was moved slightly to the east to avoid buried electric and water services.

The topsoil consisted of mid brown grey moderately compact silty clay with occasional fragments of brick rubble. The subsoil consisted of a compact mid yellow brown silt clay going onto compact yellow brown clay natural substratum. Overall, no archaeological features or finds were recorded. One small very narrow (0.4m) and shallow (0.05m) alluvial deposit was noted towards the eastern end of the trench and investigated but contained no finds and was of natural origin.

Length (m)	Width (m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
8	1.4		0.6	0.8	no-
Interval (m) from south end	0	4	8		
Topsoil depth	0.5m	0.5m	0.6m		
Subsoil depth	0.1m	0.14m	0.1m		
Top of natural	0.6m	0.64m	0.7m		
Base of trench	0.6m	0.8m	0.8		



Figure 5 Trench 1 looking east.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the east of the paved car park area

The topsoil consisted of mid brown grey moderately compact silty clay with occasional fragments of brick rubble. The subsoil consisted of a compact mid yellow brown silt clay above a compact yellow brown clay natural substratum. No archaeological features or finds were present.

Length (m)	Width (m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
8	1.4		0.6m	0.8m	no-
Interval (m) from north-east end	0	4	8		
Topsoil depth	0.5m	0.58m	0.63m		
Subsoil depth	0.1m	0.05m	0.17m		
Top of natural substratum	0.6m	0.63m	0.8m		
Base of trench	0.6,	0.6m	0.8m		



Figure 6 Trench 2 looking south.

Discussion

Overall, the results of the evaluation were negative, although the presence of one small shallow undated alluvial natural deposit sealed by the subsoil was located in Trench 1. The trenches showed a thick layer of garden soil layer, possibly thickened by redistribution of excavated material from the car park and stables in the late 1990's. Examination of historic

maps show that the area has been open space since the 1880's and development only started to in the late 1990's.

References

- NCC 2014a *Brief For A Programme Of Archaeological Evaluation Of Land At 10 The Green, Clipston, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire County Council
16.12.2014
- NCC 2014b *Brief For A Programme Of Archaeological Investigation Of Land At 10 The Green, Clipston, Northamptonshire* Northamptonshire County Council
16.12.2014

Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 unbound copy of report 2015-064, 2 A4 trench recording forms, 1 A4 photo index, digital photographs and monochrome photographs.

The site archive will be held by ULAS under the accession number ULAS-15605 pending the provision of an appropriate recipient body. Northamptonshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) has issued the event identification number ENN107960 for the site.

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 no.	
Project Name	10 The Green, Clipston
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	Planning application
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 71086 81718
Start/end dates of field work	20/04/2015 – 20/04/2015
Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council

Acknowledgements

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