



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on Land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland**



NGR: TF 04035 10893

Stephen Baker

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland**

(TF 04035 10893)

Stephen Baker

For: Marrons Planning.

Approved by:

Signed



Date: 30/06/2015

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland (TF 04035 10893) on 24th June 2015. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.

In total of four trenches were excavated but the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features.

The archive will be held by Rutland County Museum Service under accession number OAKRM2015.7.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Marrons Planning on 24th June 2015 on land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland (TF 04035 10893). This was undertaken as a pre-planning enquiry in advance of a proposed residential development.

The fieldwork is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located in the eastern extent of the village of Ryhall on the west side of Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall (TF 04035 10893).

The assessment area consisted of approximately 0.233ha hectares of rough pasture located east of the River Gwash on the south-west side of Belmesthorpe Lane, about 0.5km east of the historic settlement core of Ryhall. The site lies on fairly level ground at a height of approximately 29m OD and is enclosed by a combination of hedgerows and metal fencing. The British Geological Survey for England and Wales indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Upper Lincolnshire Limestone Member - Limestone.

Planning permission is being sought for residential development of the area.

The Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority had requested a pre-determination evaluation by trial trenching to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains which may be present.



Figure 1: Site Location

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared (Buckley 2014). The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER) indicates that the assessment area lies close to the medieval core of Ryhall. There are also a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site.

4. Aims and Objectives

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

The main objectives of the evaluation were to:

- identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 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.

The archaeological evaluation was identified as having the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

The Medieval period (Vince 2006, Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012).

The origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.

5. Methodology

Trial Trenching Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken. Four 20 x 1.6m trenches totalling c.90 sq. m were located and machine excavated within the proposed development area. Trenches 1 and 3 were repositioned eastwards away from identified electricity services running along the western edge of the site and Trench 4 was repositioned westwards to avoid a nearby wasp's nest.

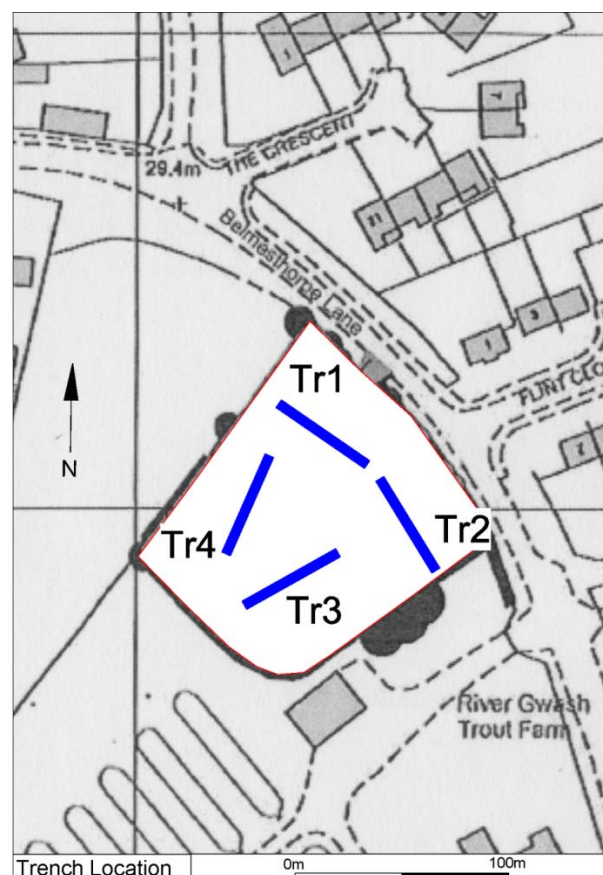


Figure 2: Trench Locations

Constraints

A live main electricity service orientated north – south ran along the western boundary of the site and a wasp's nest was identified in the vicinity of the south-east corner of the proposed development area.

6. Results (Table 1)

The topsoil was consistent across the site and was composed of a mid-dark brown sandy-clay loam with occasional/frequent small rounded pebbles. This ranged in thickness from 0.16 – 0.46m deep. Below this was mid-grey/brown silty-clay subsoil, again consistent across the area and ranging from 0.17 - 0.41m in thickness. The natural substratum was reached in all trenches and consisted of light grey limestone with patches yellow brown silt, consistent across the site and observed at a depth of 0.38 – 0.70m.

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	NW - SE	20 x 1.6	0.20 - 0.25	0.18 – 0.39	No archaeological deposits	0.50 – 0.64
2	NW – SE	20 x 1.6	0.18 – 0.30	0.25 – 0.40 -	No archaeological deposits	0.43 – 0.70
3	NE – SW	20 x 1.6	0.21 – 0.46	0.25 – 0.41	No archaeological deposits	0.46 – 0.67
4	NE - SW	20 x 1.6	0.16 – 0.26	0.17 – 0.30	No archaeological deposits	0.38 – 0.56

Table 1: List of trenches and descriptions.

Trench 01

Trench 1, in the northern corner of the site contained no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Trench 02

Trench 2, in the south-eastern area of the site contained no features of archaeological interest.

Trench 03

Trench 3, positioned further north-west than its proposed location, due to the proximity of a wasp's nest, revealed a naturally indented limestone substratum filled with brown/yellow silt but no features or deposits of archaeological origin.

Trench 04

Trench 4, relocated c.2m further south-east than the proposed location, was also devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

7. Conclusion

None of the four trenches excavated revealed any evidence for archaeological features or deposits. The area may have been part of the north field of the medieval village and away from occupation.

8. Archive

The completed archive will be deposited with Rutland County Council under the accession no. OAKRM.2015.7 and contains:

- 4 trench recording sheets
- 1 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, under ID: universi1-. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Belmsthorpe Lane, Ryhall, Rutland (TF 04035 10893) on 24th June 2015. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.</p> <p>In total of four trenches were excavated but the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features.</p> <p>The archive will be held by Rutland County Museum Service under accession number OAKRM2015.7.</p>
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Stephen Baker
Previous/Future work	Previous: none / Future: unknown
Current Land Use	Rough pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF, Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition
Site Co ordinates	TF 04035 10893
Height OD	29m OD
Start/end dates of field work	24 th June 2015
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Study Area	90 sq.m.
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: OAKRM2015.7 OASIS form ID:

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10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Marrons Planning and was carried out by Stephen Baker and Andy Mcleish. Dr Patrick Clay managed the project.

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