



UNIVERSITY OF
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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Trial Trenching on
Land south of Eastgate,
Hallaton, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 7881 9641

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No. 2016-014

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**For: Laughton Developments
Planning application no. 15/01380/FUL**

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 28th January 2016

Name: Richard Buckley

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

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CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Geology and Topography	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	2
Archaeological Objectives	4
Methodology	4
Results	6
Discussion	10
Bibliography	10
Archive	10
Publication	10
Acknowledgements	11

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)	2
Figure 2: Plan of the proposed development with trench locations (provided by client)	5
Figure 3: Trench locations	5
Figure 4: Trench 1 looking south-west	7
Figure 5: Trench 1 looking north	8
Figure 6: Trench 2, looking northeast	9

Archaeological trial trenching on land south of Eastgate, Hallaton, Leicestershire (SP 7881 9641)

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Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land adjacent to The Bewicke Arms, Eastgate, Hallaton, Leicestershire (SP 7881 9641) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 18-19 January 2016. The work was undertaken on behalf of Laughton Developments in advance of the proposed erection of a detached dwelling. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A5.2016.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out on land adjacent to The Bewicke Arms, Hallaton, Leicestershire (SP 7881 9641). The work was undertaken on behalf of Laughton Developments by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 18-19 January 2016.

The site is located within the village core of Hallaton, approximately 11km north-east of Market Harborough. The site lies immediately adjacent to the east boundary of The Bewicke Arms public house on the south side of Eastgate on the south side of the village (Fig. 1).

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a detached dwelling on land adjacent to The Bewicke Arms, Eastgate, Hallaton, LE16 8UB, subject to planning conditions (15/01380/FUL), including a requirement for the implementation of ‘a programme of archaeological work, commencing with an initial phase of trial trenching and including any necessary subsequent mitigation investigations’. This condition was requested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as advisor to Harborough District Council in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. This report provides details of the initial phase of exploratory trial trenching. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation on Land adjacent to The Bewicke Arms, Eastgate, Hallaton LE16 8UB* (Gonzalez-Rodriguez 2016).

The proposed development site comprised a long and thin rectangular parcel of land, the southern part of which was a heavily overgrown marshy area with mature bushes and trees, and much of the north and central part of the site was overgrown with brush, bramble and bushes. At the request of the planning authority, the curtilage of the property was subsequently reduced to exclude the southern portion of land.

Geology and Topography

The proposed development site is located within the village core of Hallaton, approximately 11km north-east of Market Harborough. The site lies immediately adjacent to the east boundary of The Bewicke Arms public house, on the south side of the village (Figures 1-3).

The site comprises an area of approximately 0.20ha. The ground level across the proposed development site falls markedly from north to south at an approximate height of 96m aOD to the north and 86m aOD at its southern boundary.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the site is on the boundary of Whitby Mudstone Formation and Dyrham Formation – Siltstone and Mudstone, with some alluvial deposits likely to the south, towards the stream.

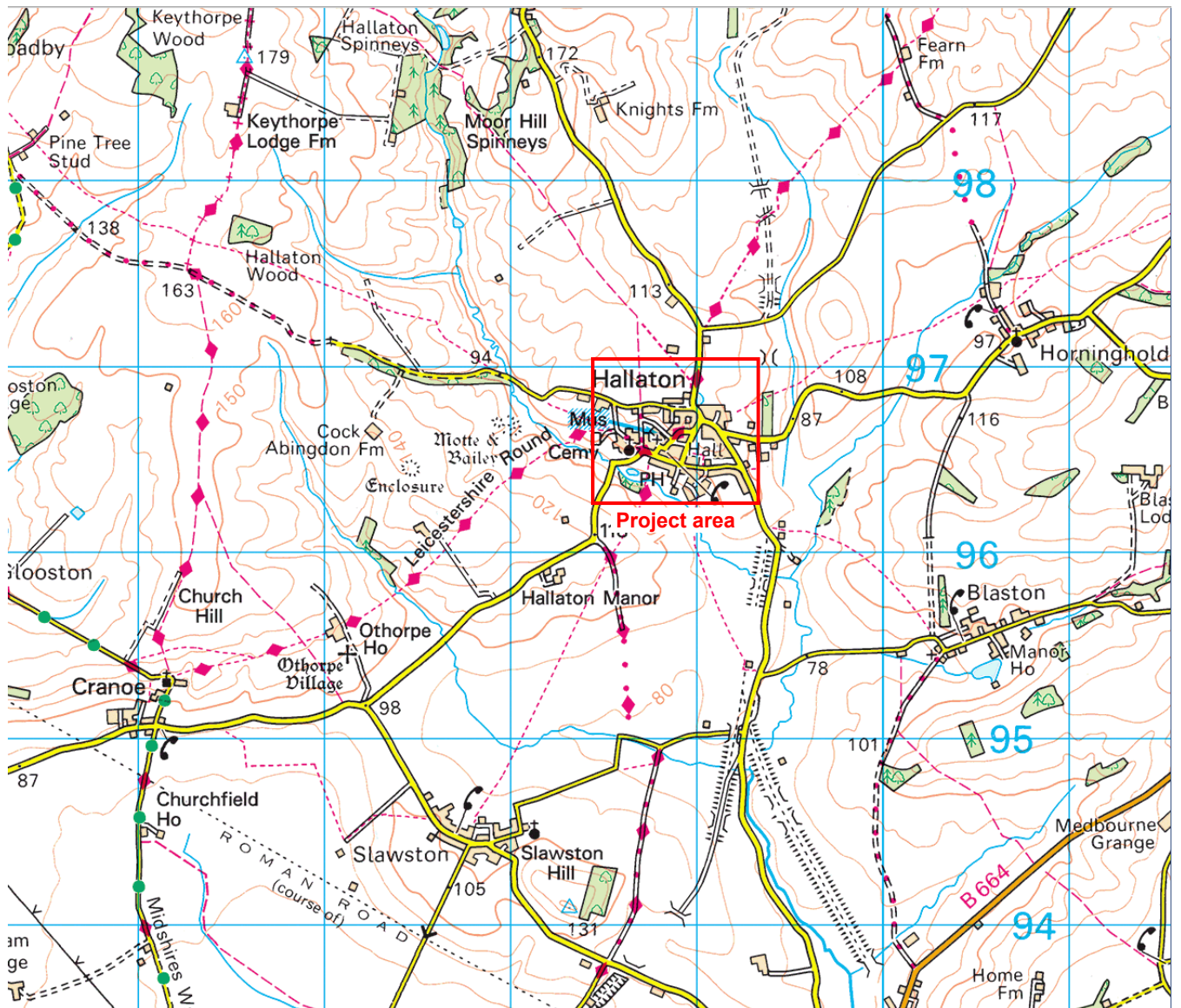


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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Historical and Archaeological Background

Known as Alctone in 1086 (Domesday Book), Hallaton is rich in historic buildings and structures, more than 50, and 17 entries for archaeological activity within 500m of the proposed development site in the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (hereinafter HER). Based on the location of the site near the core of the medieval village, along with the absence of development in this area, the site was considered to have potential

for the survival of Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains. The following is a brief summary of relevant sites listed in the HER.

Prehistoric and Romano British

There is little prehistoric material recorded from within the village. An Iron Age coin (MLE6477) from east of Hallaton Castle and a Late Iron Age gold coin was also found in this area in the mid-19th century.

Roman

An Iron/Age/Roman site, Hare Pie Bank (MLE20528) was surveyed in 2011 where it was recorded what was thought to be a Roman temple, though it proved to be a medieval chapel. However, during excavations in 2011 and 2012, Roman pottery and features were recorded as well as two sherds of Iron Age pottery (Score 2012: 224-8; Score 2013: 251-4). North of Hare Pie Bank, a Roman brooch (MLE18182) was recovered. A solid silver early Roman Omega brooch was found here in the 1960s on the surface of a field.

A possible Roman road (MLE6033) runs through Hallaton on a SW-NE alignment joining the Gartree Road SW of Slawston.

In addition to these, outside of the search radius is the site of the Hallaton Hoard, with over 5000 Iron Age and Roman coins.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

Anglo-Saxon pottery (MLE20529) has been recorded from Hare Pie Bank.

The Anglo-Saxon/medieval remains at Hallaton Hall (MLE10409) along with the pottery recovered indicate late Saxon early medieval activity in the vicinity.

In the site of a medieval cult chapel and place of pilgrimage, St. Morrell's chapel (MLE19055), coins from the 13th-15th centuries. There is documentary evidence for the chapel dating back to the 16th century and a geophysical survey and excavation of the site were carried out in 2006, 2011, 2012 and 2013 (Score and Morison 2014).

Medieval remains of Hallaton include the core of the historic settlement (MLE8936), the marketplace (MLE1643), Hallaton Hall (MLE10408), a possible medieval manor house near the church (MLE1644), fishponds south of the Bewicke Arms (MLE1652) as well as the earthworks north of Churchgate (MLE9441).

Post- Medieval

Post-medieval remains at Hallaton include a brick well or cistern (MLW19907) at Horninghold Road, which suggests the presence of a building in this vicinity, an undated limestone, sandstone and cobble wall which does not appear on the 19th century OS maps, boundary ditches and pits have also been recorded. Finds include a single sherd of late medieval pottery, with other sherds dating from the 17th-19th centuries. Clay pipe, glass and animal bone has also been recorded.

In Hallaton Hall, post-medieval north-south wall fragments (MLE10407) were found during trial trenching in 2005 which may relate to ancillary buildings of the Hall. A large, domed brick structure, possibly a soft water tank (MLE15928) was observed during a watching brief in 2005.

A series of earthworks (MLE9442) have been recorded south of Hallaton cemetery, possibly relating to settlement or landscaped gardens.

Listed Buildings

Various listed buildings are located in the vicinity of the development site.

Listed Buildings to 1700:

- The Bewicke Arms public house dating 16th- early 17th century (MLE13731);
- The Cross (South Side) (MLE13766) cottage dated 1735 with earlier core;
- The Cross (North Side) (MLE13763) cottage originally 17th- 18th century, incorporating smithy;
- The Conduit, High Street, possibly 16th century house (MLE13755)

Listed Buildings 1700-1800:

- The Cross (East side) (MLE13764) house dating to the 18th century;
- Cross Cottage (MLE13765) cottage from the early 18th century.

Listed Buildings 1800-present

- War Memorial (MLW13770) dated 1918;
- K6 Telephone Kiosk on the High Street (MLE13771) designed by Gilbert Scott in 1935.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- 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 record any archaeological deposits revealed in the trenches.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

A total of two 30-metre long trenches were to be excavated (Fig. 2). Trench 2 had to be abandoned due to extremely wet ground conditions. Trench 1 was moved slightly south and was 24 metres long due to site access.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. If present archaeological features were to be hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).

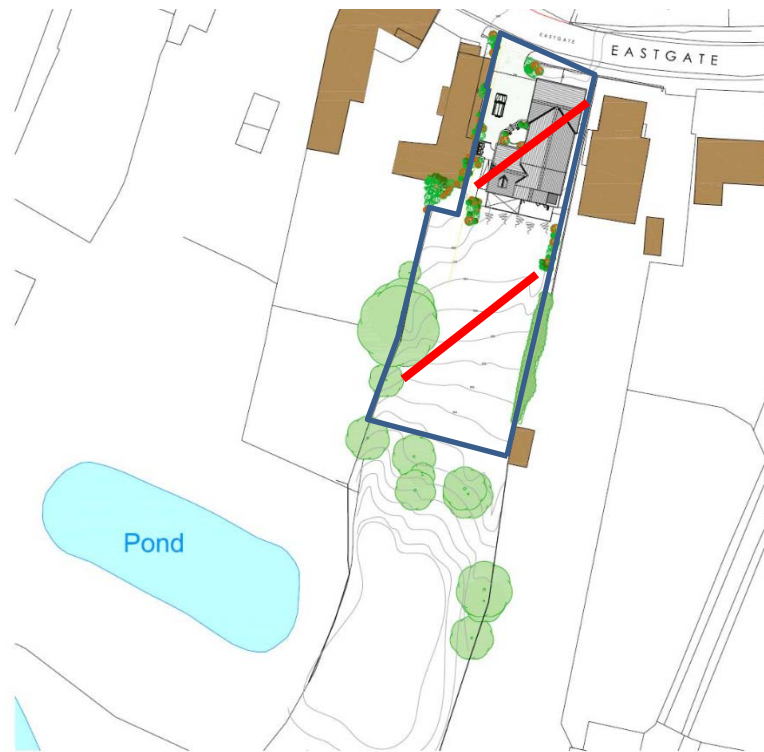


Figure 2: Plan of the proposed development (provided by client) with proposed trench locations

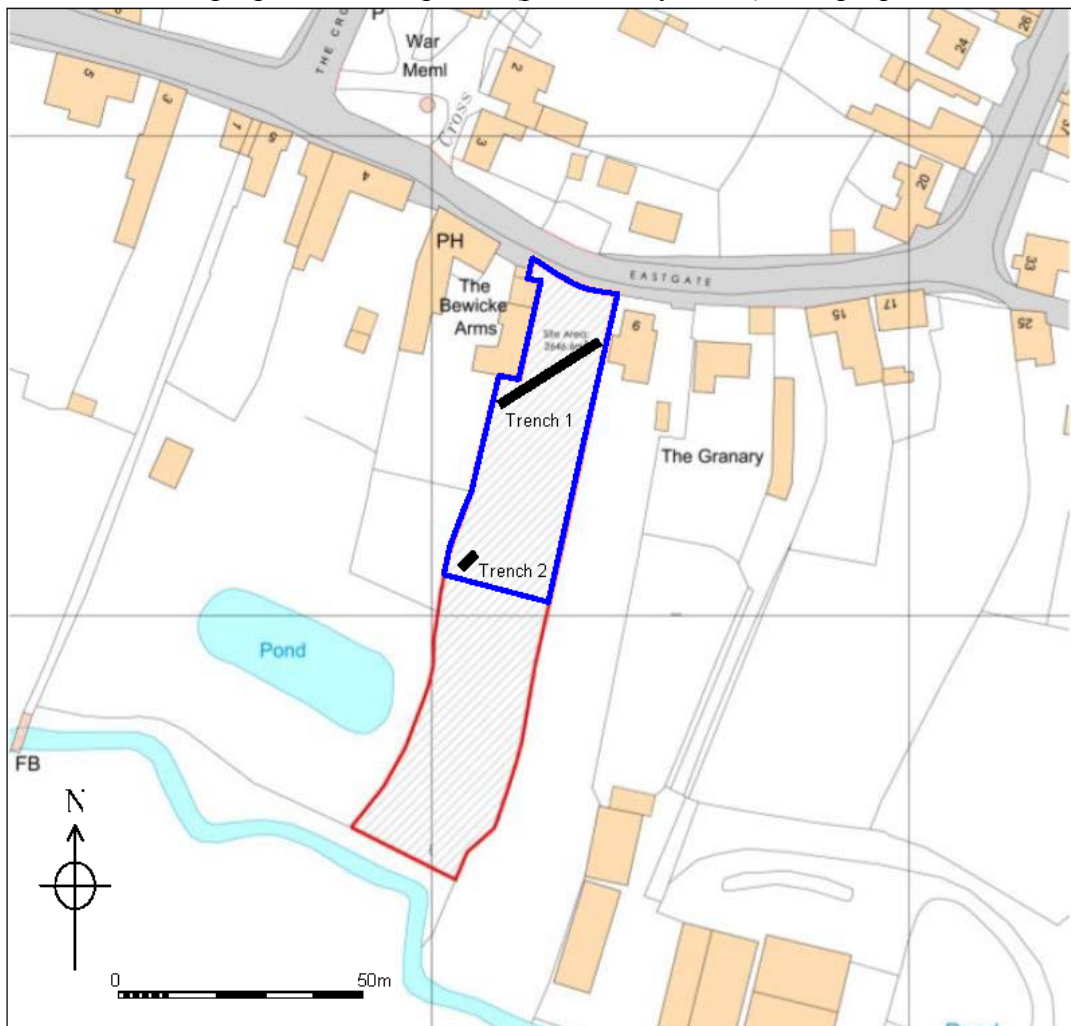


Figure 3: Trench locations

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 24m x 1.6m, and was aligned north-east by south-west (Fig. 4). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.55m and 1.26m. The natural varied from mixed grey and yellow clay at the north-east end of the trench (0.75m deep), grey stained sandstone in the middle of the trench (1m deep) (Fig. 5), and orange sand with grey organic clay patches (1.26m deep).

At the north-east end of the trench, the natural was overlain by topsoil, consisting of dark-brown clay loam, 0.15m thick. In the middle of the trench, the natural was overlain by blue-grey organic clay with charcoal inclusions between 0.1m and 0.3m thick. Above this was a layer of mixed cement and modern ceramic building materials (CBM) 0.1m to 0.26m thick. At the south-west end of the trench, the natural was overlain by light-brown sandy clay with charcoal and CBM inclusions together with fragments of post-medieval pottery, 0.4m thick.

These layer were overlain by mixed grey-brown clay loam and orange sand (at the north-east end), between 0.3m and 0.6m thick. At the south-west end to the middle of the trench there was a further overburden made up of layers of clay and topsoil with overburden, 0.2m to 0.46m thick.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 4m x 1.6m aligned north-east by south-west (Fig. 6). The natural substratum of patches of grey clay and mixed grey mottled sandy clay was encountered at a depth of 0.3m. This was covered by topsoil of dark-brown clay loam, 0.32m thick.



Figure 4: Trench 1 looking south-west



Figure 5: Trench 1 looking north



Figure 6: Trench 2, looking northeast

Discussion

There were no archaeological features encountered within the excavated areas and there were no finds.

Bibliography

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Brown, D., 2008, *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives (Institute for Archaeologists)*

Coward, J., 2015, *Historic Desk-Based Assessment for a Proposed Residential Development Site South of Eastgate, Hallaton, Leicestershire* Archaeology and Built Heritage R-0044

Rodriguez, M. G., 2016, *Written scheme of Investigation for Evaluation, Land Adjacent to the Bewicke Arms, Eastgate, Hallaton, Leicestershire*. ULAS WSI ref. 16-027

Archive

The site archive consists of: 2 A4 trial trench sheets, 1 A4 photo index sheet, and 20 digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A5.2016.

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.	universi1-244340
Project Name	Land adjacent to The Bewicke Arms, Eastgate Hallaton, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Nathan Flavell
Previous/Future work	Desk-based assessment
Current Land Use	Brown-field
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 7881 9641
Start/end dates of field work	18/01/16 – 19/01/16
Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	1247.89 square metres

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by Nathan Flavell; the report was written by Nathan Flavell and the project was managed for ULAS by Richard Buckley.

Nathan Flavell BA (Hons) PG Dip

Archaeological Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: nf70@le.ac.uk

20/01/2016

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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