



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological field
evaluation at the
Kegworth Community Centre,
Dragwell,
Kegworth
Leicestershire
(SK 4849 2649)

Leon Hunt



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evaluation at the
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Dragwell, Kegworth,
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(SK 4849 2649)**

Leon Hunt

for

Leicestershire County Council

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at the Kegworth Community Centre, Dragwell, Kegworth, Leicestershire (SK 4849 2649).

The evaluation was in advance of the proposed re-development of the site. The site currently consists of the closed community centre, formerly the Co-Op building, with a car park, temporary buildings and a grassed area to the rear.

The site lies within the core of the medieval village and within an apparent circular enclosure formed by an earthwork to the east and the line of a local road to the west. This may be evidence of an Anglo-Saxon 'burh' or fortified stronghold, or possibly an earlier prehistoric enclosure. The line of a Roman road also lies nearby.

Two 20m trenches were excavated within the site; one on the grassed area and one in the car park. The first was very deep and consisted of a large amount of overburden underlying deep topsoil and the second largely consisted of hardcore over buried soils. The second trench contained two features, which after examination were found to be modern in date. The larger feature may have been the remains of a soakaway or a cess pit.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A39.2015.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to carry out an archaeological field evaluation at the Kegworth Community Centre, Dragwell, Kegworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 4849 2649).

Planning consent is to be sought for the re-development of the site for new housing.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The site was the site of the Kegworth Community Centre (now closed) and includes a large early 20th century building, with a large car park to the rear, other temporary buildings and a small area of grass.

The site lies within the historic medieval core of the town and within the remains of an enclosure, which may be Anglo-Saxon, or earlier in date.

Location and Geology

Kegworth lies at the north-western edge of Leicestershire, close to the border with Nottinghamshire. It lies around 18 miles north-west of Leicester and 12m south-west of Nottingham (Figure 1).

The site lies on the western side of Dragwell in the centre of the village, around 250m south of the church. The assessment area consists of a sub-rectangular area of around 0.19 hectares (Figure 2).

The site consists of a large brick building along the street front, with a car park behind, a pair of brick outhouses, a large shed and an area of grass. There is also an empty building platform that had contained a temporary structure.

The land is broadly flat, with a slight incline to the north, and lies at around 39m aOD.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation overlain by Head (silt, clay and gravel) and Hemington Member silt and gravel.



Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

Historical Background

The place name of Kegworth is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is derived from the Old English personal name 'Caegga' or 'Kaggi', twinned with the Old Scandinavian 'worth', meaning enclosure or village. It is, therefore 'the settlement associated with Caegga' (Mills 2003).

It was recorded in the Domesday Book that Cacheworde was held by Earl Harold Godwin, who became the last of the Saxon kings. After Harold's defeat at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 the Earl Hugh of Chester was given the land by William the Conqueror.

The 'Dragwell' is so named as it was a long drag up the hill from the well that lay in the archway in the stone wall of what is now St. Andrews Church rooms, which was formerly a school.

The first Long Eaton Co-operative Society shop was founded in the cottage at No. 9 Dragwell before 1889. The Co-op was later housed in the buildings, which still stand at the east facing street frontage and until recently held the Community Centre (Kegworth Village Website).

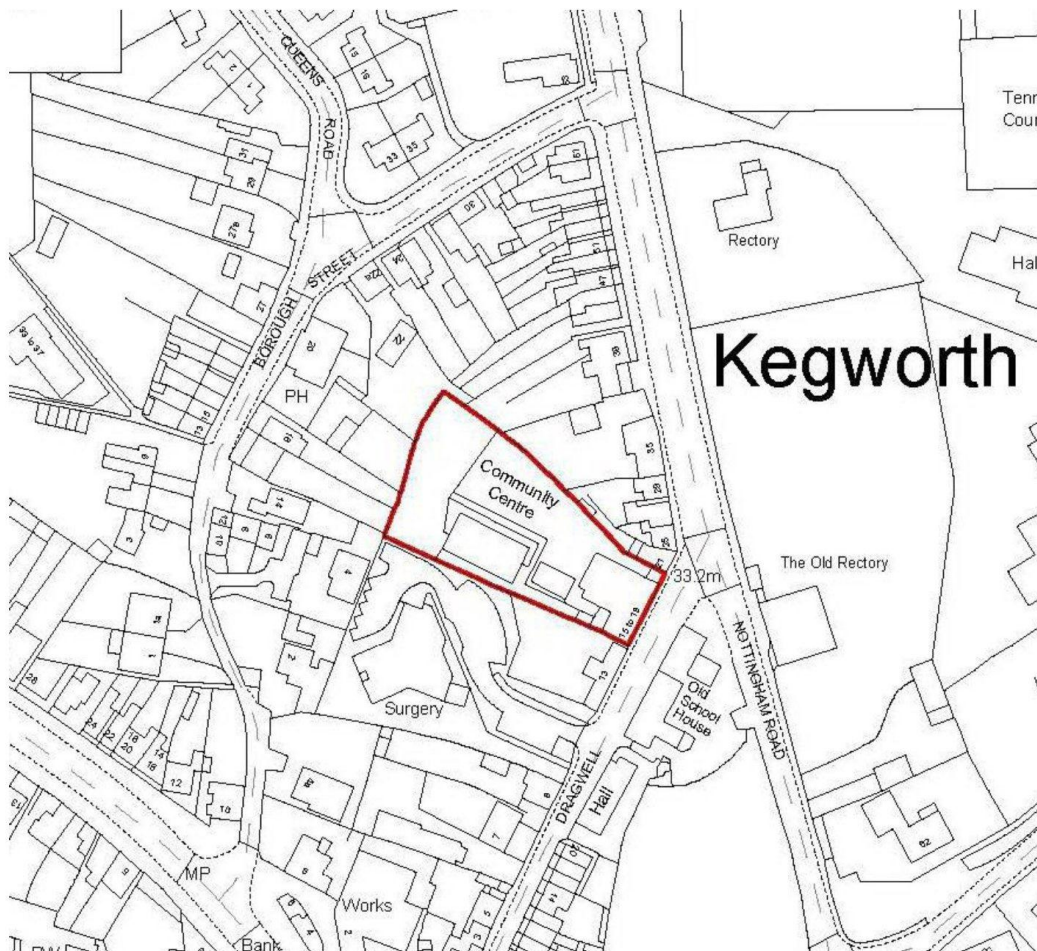


Figure 2: Location of Community Centre site. Supplied by Developer

Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site (Hunt 2014). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the assessment area lies within the area of the village defined as an enclosure, which may be the Anglo-Saxon 'burh', the fortified stronghold of the early town (HER Ref: **MLE16643**). Consequently, the site is also within the medieval settlement core of the town (**MLE4637**).

The enclosure is defined by earthworks to the east of the site and by the opposite curve at Borough Street to the west. The enclosure is clear on most of the early OS maps of the town (see below). It is undated although there is a possibility that it is prehistoric.

There are a number of other known archaeological sites within a 500m radius of the assessment area. These include the line of a Roman Road that runs from the Roman Town at Red Hill, and which may run past the site around 50m to the east (**MLE4658**). The medieval market place for Kegworth lies 200m south of the site (**MLE4639**). The remains of a burgage plot were discovered here in 2011 (**MLE19794**).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation 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 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.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The WSI proposed two 20m x 1.8m trenches within the site. Due to site constraints these had to be situated on the grass area to the north-west (Trench 01) and the car park (Trench 02). Trench 02 was expanded out to 2.1m for around 4.5m at the south-east end to expose a feature within the trench.

The trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After recording the trenches were backfilled.

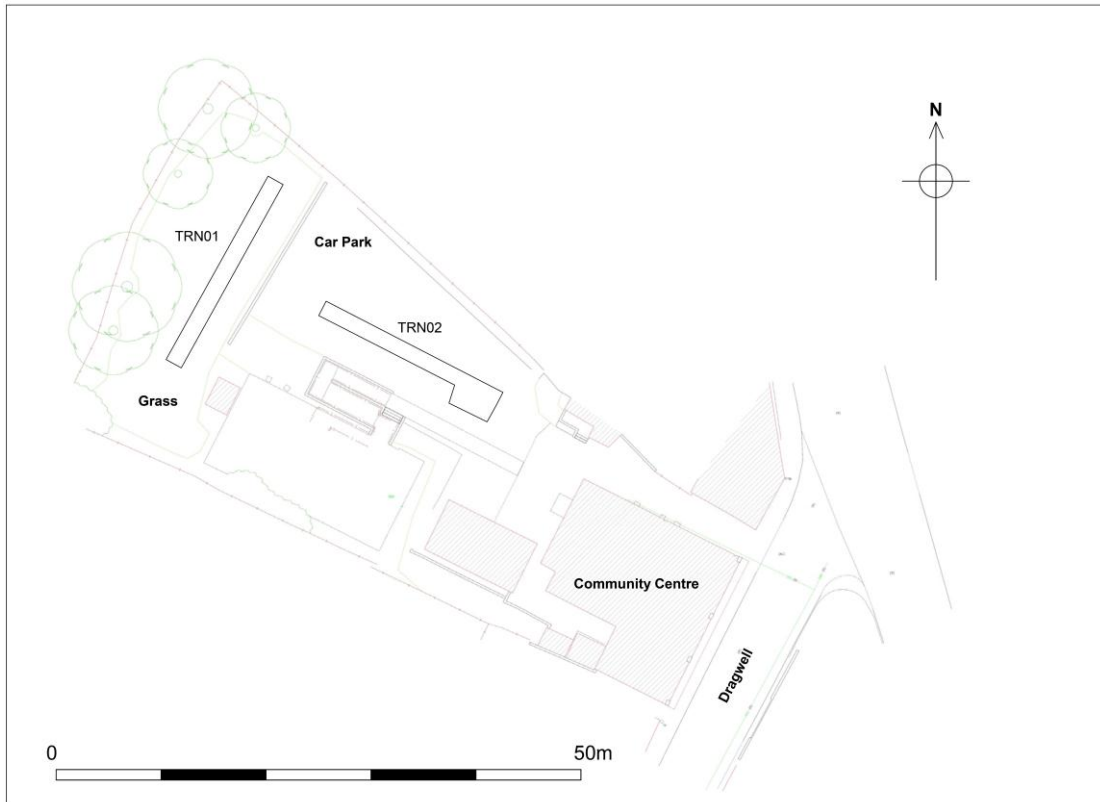


Figure 3: Trench plan



Plate 1: Work in progress on Trench 01, looking north-east

Results

Trench 01

The trench was very deep as the grass area had been used for the dumping of overburden, which had been topped with a deep layer of garden soil. Below the made-up ground was the buried original topsoil that overlay the natural sub-stratum of brownish pink clay and orange brown sand. As the trench was deep the north-eastern end was stepped and so the sequence measurements start at 2m at this end.

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Length: 20m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil (new): Weak reddish grey loam with pieces of brick

Made-up ground: Loose loamy soil, red clay and bricks

Topsoil (old): Firm reddish grey loam

No archaeological features or finds were discovered in this trench.

Interval	NE 2m	5m	10m	15m	20m SW
Topsoil Depth	0.45m	0.50m	0.32m	0.22m	0.40m
Made-up ground	0.60m	0.60m	0.42m	0.53m	0.40m
Old Topsoil	0.30m	0.20m	0.37m	0.27m	0.30m
Top of Natural substratum	1.45m	1.30m	1.11m	1.02m	1.10m
Base of Trench	1.82m	1.80m	1.70m	1.50m	1.25m



Plate 2: Trench 01, post-excavation, looking south-west

Trench 02

This trench was excavated through the car park and therefore the upper layers consisted of compacted hardcore overlying topsoil and subsoil above the natural substratum of reddish brown sandy clay.

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 18m

Width: 1.6m and 2.1m

Topsoil : Firm very dark loam with small pieces of brick and rare rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Weak yellowish brown sandy-clay

Two features were discovered in this trench. At the south-eastern end of the trench was a large square feature measuring *c.* 2m by 1.5m. This was filled with yellowish brown sandy clay and contained a sherd of modern pottery. Around 8m from the north-western end of the trench was a small pit, also containing yellowish brown sandy-clay. It appeared to have been cut from high up in the sequence just below the hardcore.

Interval	NW 0m	5m	10m	15m	18m SE
Hardcore	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Topsoil Depth	0.38m	0.45m	0.50m	0.74m	0.60m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.21m	0.28m	0.40m	0.25m
Top of Natural substratum	0.53m	0.66m	0.78m	1.14m	0.85m
Base of Trench	0.68m	0.76m	0.88m	1.24m	1.03m



Plate 3: Work in progress on Trench 02, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 02, post-excitation, looking north-west



Plate 5: The square pit in Trench 02, looking south

Conclusion

The evaluation carried out on the land to the rear of Kegworth Community Centre had some potential as the land lay within the medieval core of the town and apparently within the curtilage of a possible Anglo-Saxon enclosure.

The sequence in Trench 01 showed that the grass area on the north-western side of the site had been built up with overburden and that a large amount of topsoil had been laid on top of that. This overburden largely consisted of brick, clay and building material and was probably from the demolition of an earlier building on the site. No archaeological features were found in the lower levels of the trench.

The second trench in the car park was less disturbed and did contain two features. The small pit contained no dating evidence but as it was cut from just under the hardcore of the car park it can be surmised that it was modern in date.

The large square pit at the south-eastern end was very different, containing very steep sides and a sherd of modern pottery. The function of this large feature is unclear but it may have been a cess pit or possibly the soakaway for a drain where the drain had been removed.

No other features were discovered during the evaluation.

Reference

Hunt, L., 2014 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for the Kegworth Community Centre, Dragwell, Kegworth, Leicestershire (SK 4849 2649)*. ULAS Report 2014-160.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Fran Statham and Steve Copley of Leicestershire County Council for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work was carried out by Leon Hunt and Donald Clark.

The JCB was supplied by Planters Ltd and was driven by Richard Clark.

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 data entry

Project Name	Kegworth Community Centre, Dragwell, Kegworth
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Leon Hunt
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Car Park and grass
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Pre- planning enquiry

Site Co ordinates	SK 4849 2849
Start/end dates of field work	20-04-2015 to 21-04-2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	0.19ha

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A39.2015.

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2015-060)
- 1 Unbound copy of Desk-based assessment report (ULAS Report No. 2014-160)
- 2 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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