



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land to the rear of 28 Broadgate,
Great Easton,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 84475 93168

Andrew Hyam

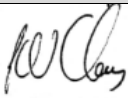


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Leicestershire
NGR: SP 84475 93168**

A R Hyam

For: Mulberry Homes Limited

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land to the rear of 28 Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire between the 5th and 7th of October 2016. Eight 30m trenches were excavated in two fields to the north-west of Number 28. Traces of medieval ridge and furrow survive in both fields although the most northerly field has also been disturbed in the recent past. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the evaluation.

The report will be archived under accession number X.A113.2016

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 28 Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire. Under planning application number App/F2415/A/14/2216887 permission has been granted on appeal for a residential development on land to the rear of Number 28 Broadgate. The planning application covers the field immediately to the north-west of Number 28 (Phase 1) but the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) also covers a pre-application area covering the field beyond this also to the north-west (Phase 2).

Background

Great Easton village lies approximately 4km from the north-western outskirts of Corby and is close to the boundary of both Rutland and Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). The Eyebrook Reservoir is approximately 1.5km to the north of the village. The proposed development site consists of two fields to the north-west of Broadgate. Both fields are reached via the existing driveway of Number 28. The southernmost field (Phase 1), for the purposes of this work, is identified as Field 1 whilst the northern field (Phase 2) is Field 2 (Fig. 2). Hedgerows form the north, east and west boundaries and another hedgerow separates the two fields. A small brook runs down the eastern boundary of the site. The fields are generally level although there is a slight rise towards the northern corner of the site. The land appears to have been made up or landscaped along the south-eastern boundary along the rear of the existing houses fronting onto Broadgate. The existing houses are built on a slope which continues south-eastwards down through the village. The proposed development site is approximately 64m OD. There are traces of wide ridge and furrow running from south-east to north-west across Field 1. Traces of the same ridge and furrow can be seen in Field 2 but much of the field has been levelled in the last 20 years and some

excavations have also taken place. The excavations were, according to the present landowner, carried out as part of a mechanical excavator training exercise. The outline of many of these can still be seen. A brick-lined well is located near to the south-east corner of Field 1. This appears to be a relic of a farmyard which used to occupy the corner in the first half of the 20th century. Some of the present buildings belonging to Number 28 Broadgate have been converted from the former farm buildings. The farmhouse is no longer present.

A brief study of the available historic maps indicates that the proposed development site has been used for agricultural purposes since at least the end of the 19th century. The presence of ridge and furrow suggests that the fields have not been ploughed since the medieval period.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 171 indicates that the underlying geology consists of clay. The site is at a height of around 64m OD.

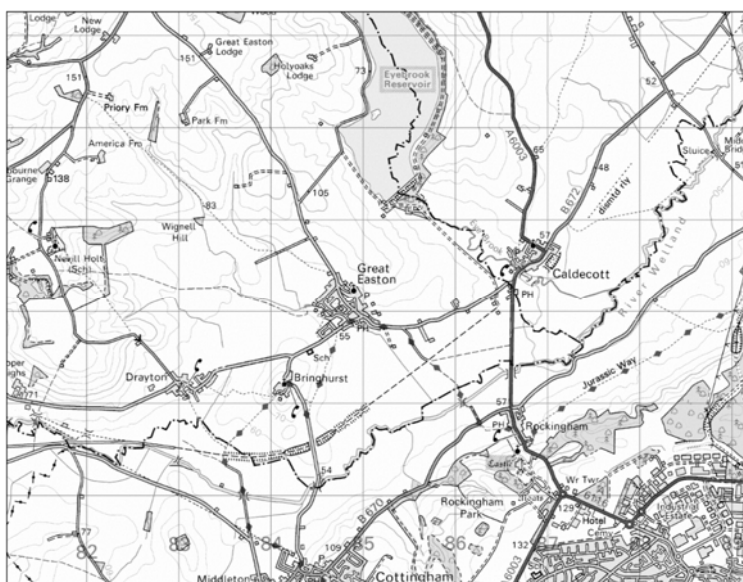


Figure 1 Great Easton location

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Figure 2 Site location
Site highlighted in red

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Figure 3 Proposed development area
Plan supplied by client. North to top of plan

Objectives

The objectives are as set out in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation on land at Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire* hereafter known as the WSI approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist. 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 any archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development. This includes the characterisation of the site within the broader landscape, any activities identified on the site and changes in land-use over time.

Methodology

Eight 30m long evaluation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket on the rear actor. The methodology and recording system employed were as stated in the ULAS WSI. All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). The Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* was adhered to. Site constraints, such as the presence of a well and other disturbed ground, meant that some trench locations had to be adjusted. The actual trench locations are shown in Figure 4.

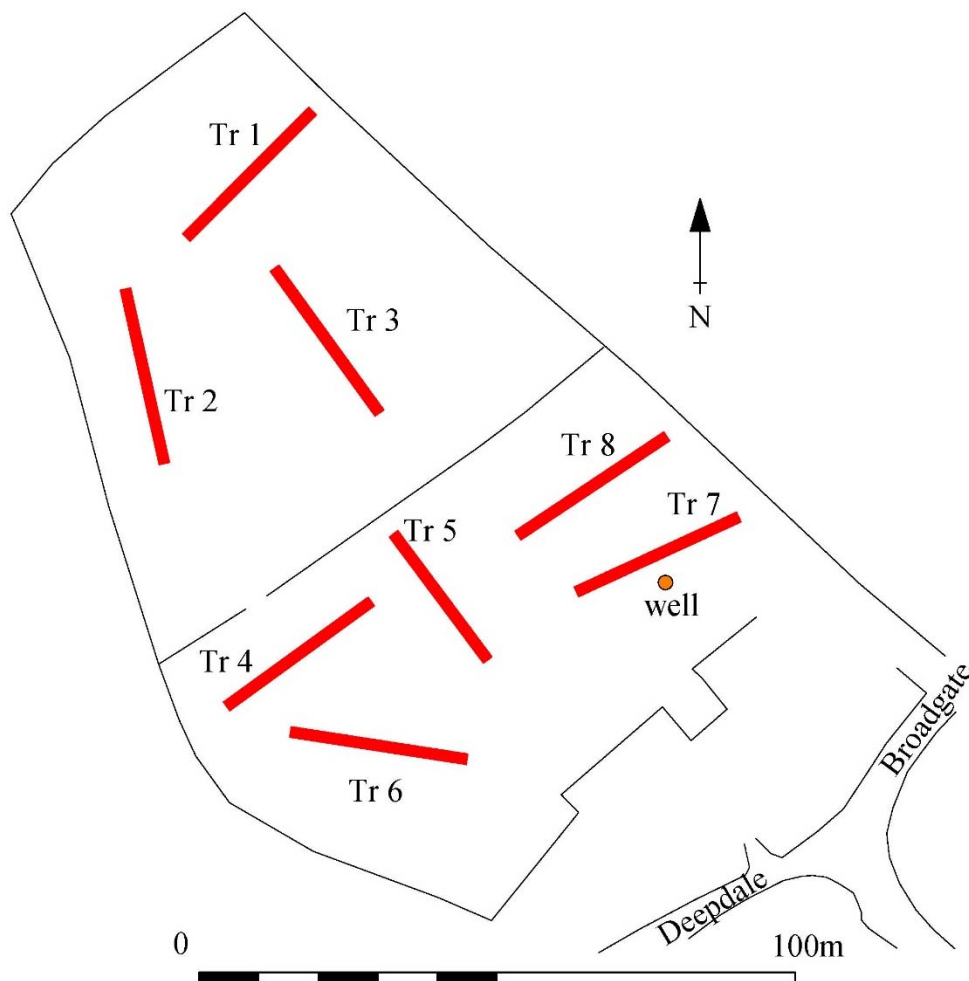


Figure 4 Trench locations

Results

In accordance with the WSI five 30m long evaluation trenches were placed in Field 1 (Phase 1) and the remaining three were placed in Field 2 (Phase 2).

Trench Number	Length (m)	Minimum depth (m)	Maximum depth (m)
1 (Field 2)	30.30	0.64	0.75
2 (Field 2)	29.80	0.60	0.75
3 (Field 2)	30.30	0.60	0.70
4 (Field 1)	29.90	0.50	0.75
5 (Field 1)	29.20	0.65	0.85
6 (Field 1)	29.50	0.60	0.70
7 (Field 1)	29.30	0.40	0.70
8 (Field 1)	30.30	0.50	0.80

Trench 1 (Field 2)

Trench 1 was located across the northern corner of Field 2 running at right angles to the remnants of ridge and furrow. Three round section field drains were observed following the alignment of the furrows. A modern cut running through the topsoil, subsoil and into the natural substratum was observed. The natural substratum consisted of yellow-brown sandy clay with occasional pebble and gravel inclusions. Bands of lighter yellow clay were also observed within the substratum.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 2 (Field 2)

Trench 2 was placed parallel to the western field boundary in Field 2 and attempted to run along the top of a levelled ridge whilst avoiding a recent geotechnical pit midway along the length of the trench. The exposed natural substratum consisted of a mid yellow-brown clay with bands of ironstone brash.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 3 (Field 2)

Trench 3 was the final trench to be placed in Field 2 and, once again attempted to follow the line of a ridge but also to avoid any evidence of modern excavation. There was much of evidence of burning in the topsoil and, to a lesser degree, in the subsoil where the village bonfire has apparently been held on a number of occasions. The undisturbed natural substratum in this trench was the same as seen in Trench 2 although was slightly darker in places which may be due to staining and leaching of burnt material from above.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 4 (Field 1)

Trench 4 was located in the north-western corner of Field 1. Prior to excavation the ground appeared to be slightly uneven and looser than usual which suggested possible recent disturbance. However once the first few centimetres of loose topsoil had been removed the rest of the topsoil and subsoil were reasonably firm and undisturbed although there was little evidence of any ridge and furrow.

The undisturbed natural substratum was as dark to mid-brown clay which lightened to a more yellowish hue towards the eastern end. There was only slight evidence of any furrows cutting the natural substratum.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 5 (Field 1)

Trench 5 was placed on top of a relatively prominent furrow which extended from the boundary hedge between Fields 1 and 2 for approximately 35m before ending at what appeared to be the flatter landscaped area backing onto the rear of the existing properties. A fragment of clay pipe stem and modern brick fragments were recovered from the topsoil. The undisturbed natural substratum was less clay-rich than in the nearby Trench 4 but still contained no archaeological features. At the southern end of the trench was a modern geotechnical pit.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 6 (Field 1)

Trench 6 was placed in the south-western corner of the site and, to avoid damaging the roots of a nearby tree on the western boundary, was re-orientated to follow a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment rather than north-west to south-east as shown on the WSI. Once the topsoil and subsoil had been removed traces of furrows were visible cutting the natural substratum which was similar in nature to that in trenches 4 and 5.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 7 (Field 1)

Trench 7 was moved slightly further north than shown on the WSI to avoid a well, which is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and a late 20th century soakaway running behind the present properties to the brook on the eastern boundary. The topsoil and subsoil appear to have been disturbed around this trench as the eastern end was only 0.4m deep compared to between 0.6m and 0.85m in most of the other trenches. This may be due to its proximity to a former farm and farmyard which existed in the former garden of Number 28 and which extended northwards to include the surviving well. Two field drains were observed cutting into the natural

substratum along with an area of modern disturbance which cut across one of the drains.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench 8 (Field 1)

Trench 8 was placed to run across the surviving ridge and furrow in the northern corner of Field 1. The natural substratum once again consisted of mid-yellowish-brown clay but with small bands of red-brown clay along with some ironstone fragments. A single land drain was observed within one of the furrows. A single Mesolithic flint bladelet was recovered from the topsoil of this trench. Two sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil. The sherds were very heavily abraded and are likely to have been introduced as manure scattering activity. One appears to be a shelly type ware whilst the other has remnants of glaze adhering to the outside. It is probable that they date from the 13th to the 15th century (N Cooper pers. comm.). Both the flint and the pottery came from directly below the turfline.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.



Figure 5 Trench 1
Looking north-east. 2x1m scales



Figure 6 Trench 2
Looking north-west. 2x2m scales



Figure 7 Trench 3
Looking south. 2x2m scales



Figure 8 Trench 4
Looking north-east. 2x2m scales



Figure 9 Trench 5
Looking south-east. 2x2m scales



Figure 10 Trench 6
Looking east. 2x2m scales



Figure 11 Trench 7
Looking north-east. 2x2m scales. Well is beneath the cones on right



Figure 12 Trench 8
Looking north-east. 2x2m scales

Discussion

Despite the potential for the presence of archaeology from the prehistoric through to the post medieval periods no archaeological features were observed within any of the evaluation trenches, other than ridge and furrow. There is evidence of some modern disturbance in Field 2 and along the southern boundary of the site. This however does not appear to have extended below the subsoil and would not have affected any archaeological deposits had they been present. The remnant of ridge and furrow suggests that the fields have not been disturbed significantly since the medieval period. The two heavily abraded sherds of medieval pottery found in the topsoil in Trench 8 are most likely to have been imported as manure scatter material to the site rather than being from features within the site. The Mesolithic bladelet from the same trench is also from the topsoil and is unlikely to have come from a feature although it does indicate activity during the period in the vicinity.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

8 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

1 CD containing 61 digital photographs,

2 contact sheets of digital photographs,

2 photographic record sheets,

1 Mesolithic bladelet from the topsoil in Trench 8,

2 undiagnostic medieval pot sherds from topsoil in Trench 8

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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ULAS, 2016. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation on land at Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire*

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Appendix 1 OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-		
	Project Name	Land at Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	05-10-2016 to 07-10-2016		
	Previous/Future Work	No/ Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Field/grazing		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	App/F2415/A/14/2216887		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Land to the rear of 28 Broadgate, Gt Easton		
	Study Area	0.9ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 84475 93168		
	Height OD	64m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	A Hyam		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / Mulberry Homes Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA113.2016	XA113.2016	XA113.2016
	Contents	2 sherds pottery. 1 mesolithic blade	Photos	Trench records
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 28 Broadgate, Great Easton, Leicestershire		
	Author	A Hyam		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2016-144		
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