



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Evaluation on the Land
to the Rear of 79 Main
Street Swannington,
Coalville, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK 4155 1645**

Cathryn Shean

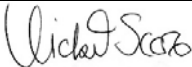


ULAS Report No 2017-022
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**An Archaeological Evaluation on the Land to the Rear of 79 Main street,
Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire
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Cathryn Shean

For: Pinakin I Desai

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2017/022	Vicki Score 	15/02/2017

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ULAS Report Number 2017-022
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Accession Number X.A18.201

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in February 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. P. I. Desai at 79 Main Street, Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire. The archaeological investigation was required as a condition of the planning permission for three residential units and associated parking at 79 Main Street, Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire (16/00244/FUL). The HER identified archaeological sites and listed buildings nearby including the Grove on the opposite side of the road to the north suggesting the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains relating to medieval and post-medieval settlement. Consequently a scheme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in order to mitigate the potential impact of the development on any such archaeological remains as might be present.

The archaeological evaluation identified no archaeological activity within the proposed area.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A18.2017.

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 undertaken in February 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. P. I. Desai at 79 Main Street, Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development area is located in Swannington which lies north-west of Coalville in North-west Leicestershire. The site lies on the main street (Figs 1-2).

The site area currently comprises the back garden of a detached house and is predominantly grass with some trees, bushes and other garden vegetation. It is bounded by residential properties to the south-west and to the north-east with the remaining site edge looking out onto open countryside. Access to the site is currently via a private driveway connecting to Main Street at the southern corner of the site.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Coal Measures mudstone and the evaluation confirmed that. There is a good deal of disturbed/infilled ground (related to coal mining activities) in the area including the land to the north of the proposed site. However, the site itself is not identified as disturbed and excavation found no evidence for made ground.

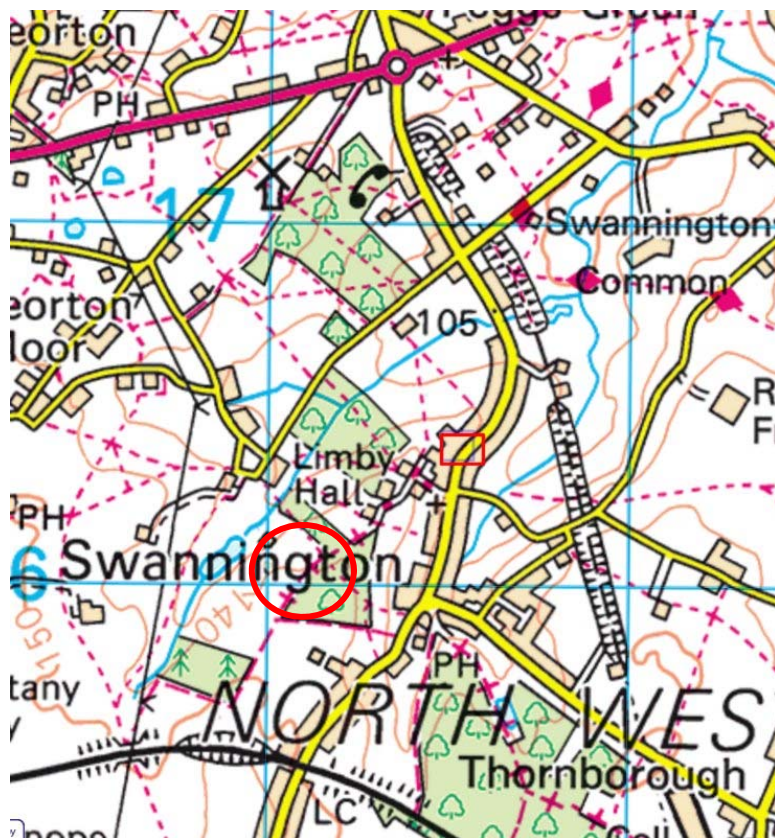


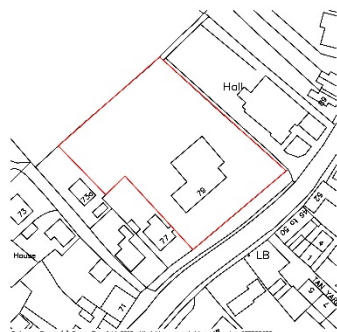
Figure 1: Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. ©Crown Copyright 1990. All rights reserved.



Project
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
at 79 MAIN STREET SWANNINGTON
for MR D DESAI

Scale **Drawn** **Date**
1:1250 LDA JUN' 2015



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

SITE LOCATION 1:1250

Please reply to:
19 Victoria Rd.
Coalville
Leicestershire
LE67 3AG
Email: lccalsbrook@gmail.com

Tel: 07808 862761

Figure 2: Development area outlined in red

Archaeological and Historical Background

Swannington does not appear in the Domesday Book and appears to have been part of the manor of Whitwick. The site lies within the historic settlement core (**MLE8663**). There are few Listed Buildings nearby including the Grove on the opposite side of the road to the north. Post-medieval remains have been identified in a few places to the south.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives are as set out in the *ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2017)* approved by the 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.

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

1. Identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
2. Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
3. Record any archaeological deposits likely to be affected by the ground-works.
4. Produce an archive and report of any results.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014), and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

All exploratory and mitigation work was considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight *et al.* 2012), along with targeting national research aims.

Methods

Fieldwork was carried out in February 2017 and involved the machine excavation of evaluation trenches across the development area. Four trenches (2 x 20m, 2 x 15m; Fig. 3) were sited to target the location of the proposed residential buildings, in order to determine the presence/absence, character and extent of archaeological remains.

Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

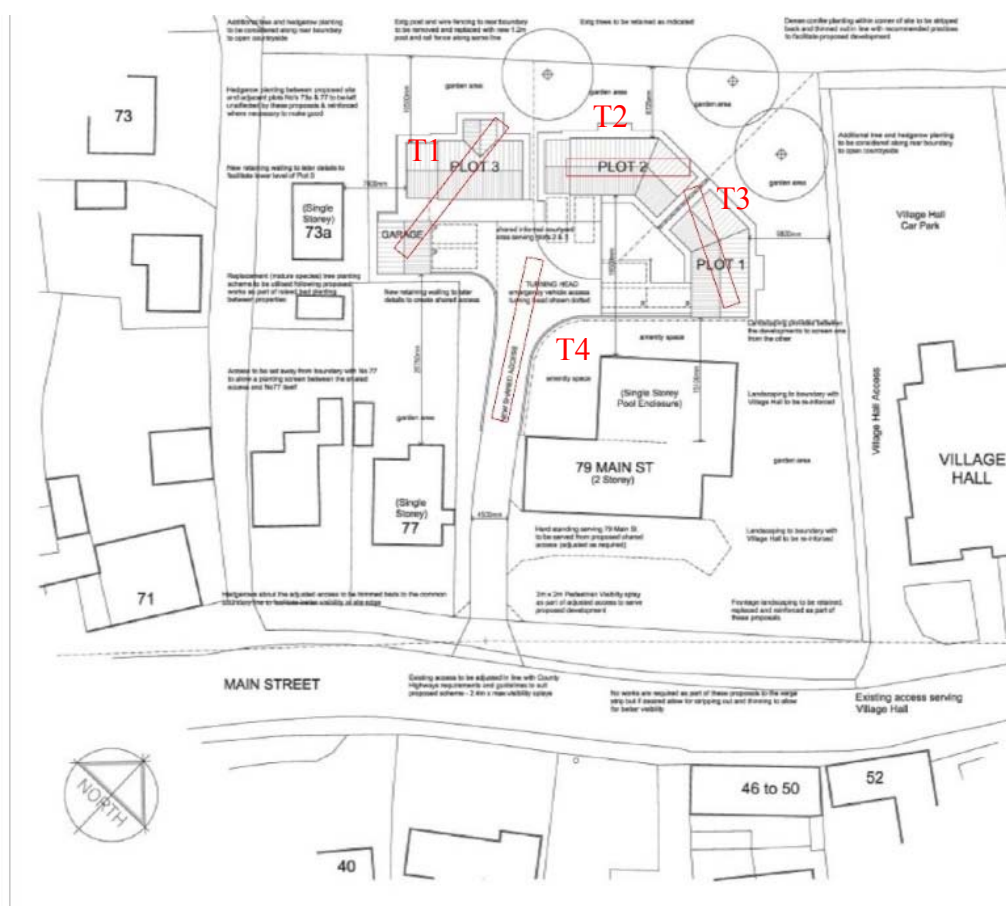


Figure 3: Trench plan overlain on illustrative plan of development.

Results

The evaluation established there was no archaeology present in any of the trenches. Trench details are summarised in tabular form (Table 1).

Table 1: Trench descriptions

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH (m)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (m)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (m)	DESCRIPTION
1	N-S	20	0.12-0.2	0.1-0.17	No archaeology present
2	NW-SE	15	0.24-0.27	0.04-0.08	No archaeology present
3	NW-SE	15	0.1-0.26	0.08-0.38	No archaeology present
4	N-S	20	0.05-0.19	0.08-0.10	No archaeology present

Trench 1, was positioned along the proposed site for plot 3 of the houses as shown in figure 3. The trench was aligned north to south. The trench was 20m long and 1.9m wide. The machine removed between 0.12m-0.20m of dark blackish brown silty sand top soil, and between 0.10m-0.17m mid brownish grey silty sand subsoil. Plough scars were visible in the middle of the trench but there was no archaeology present.

Trench 2, was 15m long and 1.9m wide and was located to the north of Trench 1, running along the site boundary at the bottom of the garden and aligned north-east – south-west. There was no archaeology present.

Trench 3, was 15m long and 1.9m wide and located near Trench 2 running along the eastern edge of the garden and around an area of shrubs. The trench was sloping to the north. No archaeological features were recorded.

Trench 4 was located on the access point into the gardens. The trench was running north to south and was 20m long and 1.9m wide. No archaeological deposits were present.



Figure 4 Trench 1 looking north



Figure 5 Trench 2 Looking north



Figure 6 Trench 3 looking north-east.



Figure 7 Trench 4 looking north-east.

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation carried out at 79 Main Street, Swannington revealed no archaeological deposits in the trenches. Trench 1 had plough scars, which suggests that the area was likely to have been agricultural fields at some point in the post-medieval period.

Archive and Publication

The site archive (X.A18.2017), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 3 trench record sheets
- photographic record indices and digital photographs
- risk assessment form

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Cathryn Shean of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr P. I. Desai. The project was managed by Vicki Score.

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Appendix 1: OASIS Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS No	universal 276291		
	Project Name	79 Main Street, Swannington, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	13/02/2017		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Gardens		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential development		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
Planning Ref.	16/00244/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	79 Main Street, Swannington, Leicestershire LE67 8QN		
	Study Area	3058.113 m ²		
	Site Coordinates	Sk 4155 1645		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (NWLDC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Cathryn Shean		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Mr P. I. Desai		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient		ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A18.2017	X.A18.2017
	Contents		Photos	Site records Field notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation on the Land to the Rear of 79 Main Street, Swannington, Coalville, Leicestershire NGR: SK 4155 1645</i>		
	Author	Shean, C.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-022		
	Date	2017		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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