



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
For land adjoining  
Narborough Parish Centre,  
Desford Road,  
Narborough,  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 53913 97482**

Donald Clark




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**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Narborough Parish Council,  
Desford Road, Narborough**

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**For: Narborough Parish Council**

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation for land adjoining Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire**

*Donald Clarke*

### **Summary**

*The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. The evaluation was requested as a pre-planning enquiry by the Planning Archaeologist from Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the planning authority, Blaby District Council, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. Planning permission is being sought by Narborough Parish Council for construction of a new Parish Centre Building. The two trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision but no archaeological deposits were recorded, although a large post-war, unidentified concrete structure was uncovered. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service under the Accession Number X.A12.2017.*

### **Introduction**

An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at land adjacent to Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 53913 97482). Narborough Parish Council propose to build a new Parish Centre on the site, and as the area lies close to the medieval village core the archaeological work was undertaken to establish potential survival of archaeological deposits which may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight *et al.* 2012: 94; Lewis 2006). The Archaeological Evaluation was requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to Blaby District Council, the planning authority. The work was required to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits in order to determine the potential impact of the proposed development upon them.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*, this document forms the report of the Archaeological Evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with the future development.





Figure 1: Narborough and site location

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### Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site lies to the north of Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 53913 97482) covering *c.*0.09 hectares and is currently used as a recreational park area. The land lies at *c.* 95m aOD. The British Geological Survey for England and Wales indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of mudstone bedrock (Edwalton member) with overlying sand, gravel, clay and silt (Oadby member diamicton) (British Geological Survey).

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>.

### Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record for the area indicates that there is a potential for archaeological remains to be present within the site. The site lies within the historic settlement core of Narborough (MLE8924) close to All Saints parish church (MLE11098) and archaeological remains have been found in the vicinity, including

human burials at the nearby Council Offices (MLE21363). Aerial photographs and historic mapping indicate that the area of site to the immediate north-west of the current building has not been previously developed. There is a likelihood that medieval remains exist within the site outside of the footprint of the current building.

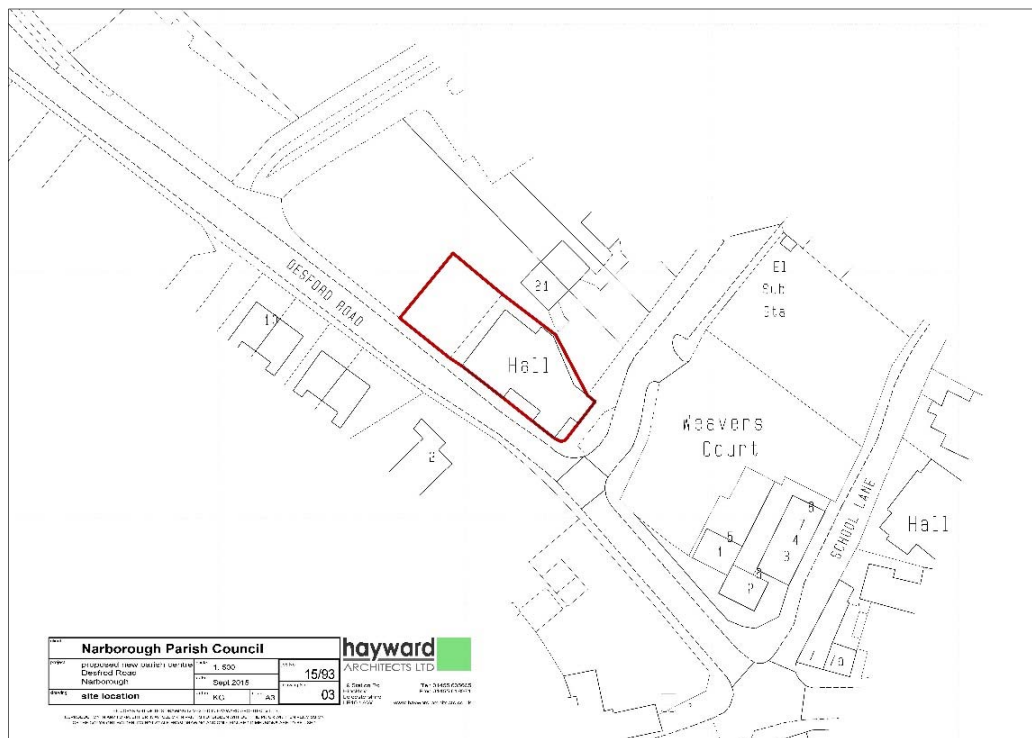


Figure 2: Site location within Narborough, provided by client

## Aims and Objectives

The archaeological trial trench evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

*Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)*

The area lies close to the medieval village core and had the potential to contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al. 2012: 94; Lewis 2006).

The main objectives of the archaeological work were

- To identify the presence/absence of 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 to be affected by the 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.

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

### **Methodology**

Prior to the machining of the two evaluation trenches, general photographs of the site area were taken.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB mechanical digger equipped with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

All archaeological work was undertaken following the approved design specification (Clay 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2013).

### **Results**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services conducted an Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. Two trenches were machined using a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket.

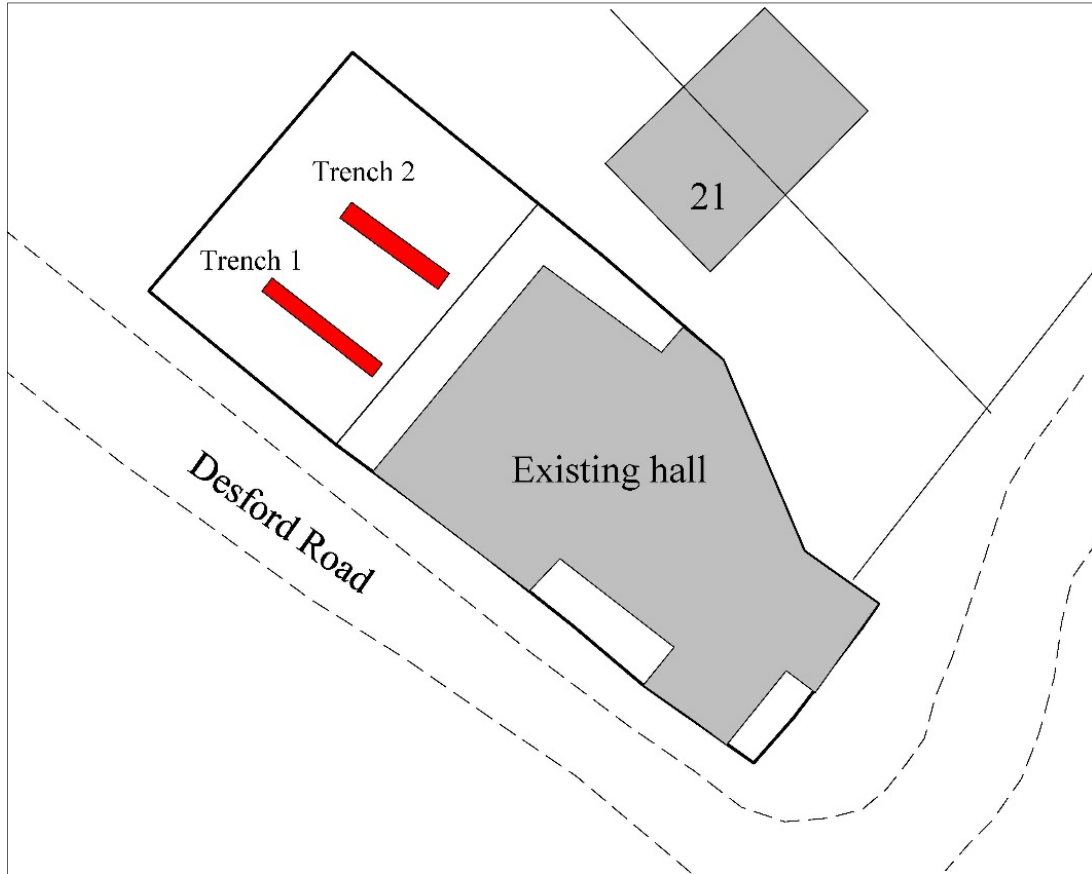


Figure 3: Site plan, position of trenches





Figure 4: Trench 1 looking south east

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 measured 9.80m in length and 1.6m in width and was orientated south-east to north-west. Initially it had been planned to excavate the trench 0.40m further to the south-east but this was not possible due to live services. The natural undisturbed substratum was recognised at a depth of between 0.74m and 1.01m within the trench. Overlying the natural was a subsoil which consisted of a sandy layer of redeposited clay. It is likely that the area had been previously disturbed and there was a notable height difference between the level of the site and the road level.

Interval in metres from NW end	0m	5m	9m
Topsoil depth	0.38m	0.43m	0.40m
Subsoil depth	0.36m	0.58m	0.57m
Top of natural	0.74m	1.01m	0.97m
Base of trench	0.90m	1.02m	1.16m



Figure 5: Trench 2 looking south-east

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 measured 8m in length and 1.6m in width and was orientated south-east to north-west. Initially it had been planned to excavate the trench perpendicular to Trench 1, but this was not possible due to the presence of a large tree. The natural undisturbed substratum was not seen, even at a depth of 1.85m, within the trench at the north-west end. Within the south-east half of the trench, a large concrete unidentified structure was uncovered 0.15m beneath the surface, this made further investigation within the trench impossible.

Interval in metres from NW end	0m	4m	8m
Topsoil depth	0.43m	0.21m	0.15m
Base of trench	1.85m	0.21m	0.15m





Figure 6: Trench 2 looking north-west, concrete structure



Figure 7: Trench 2 looking west, concrete structure

### Conclusion

Following the evaluation trenching at Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire, the following can be concluded. The areas investigated by trenching revealed heavy disturbance of the area. Previous works, including the construction of a large concrete structure, had heavily truncated the area. The depths to which the trenches were excavated revealed no archaeological finds, deposits or features.

### Archive

The archive will be held at Leicestershire Museum Service under the Accession Number X.A12.2017.

### Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see table below).

### OASIS

<b>Project OASIS no.</b>	universi1-278650
<b>Project Name</b>	Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicestershire
<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation
<b>Project Manager</b>	Patrick Clay
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Donald Clark
<b>Current Land Use</b>	Open recreational parkland
<b>Development Type</b>	Parish Centre Building
<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF
<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre planning enquiry
<b>Site Co-ordinates</b>	SP 53913 97482
<b>Date of field work</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
<b>Archive Recipient</b>	Leicestershire Museum Service
<b>Study Area</b>	<i>c.0.09 hectares</i>

### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Planters Ltd, Enderby, Leicestershire for supplying machine and driver and Dr. Patrick Clay for managing the project.

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