



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at
Walk Barn, Ryhall Road,
Great Casterton,
Rutland**

NGR: TF 0100 1176 (centre)

Andrew Hyam




ULAS Report No. 2017-091
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A R Hyam

For: Willoughby Farm Partnership

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between the 12th and 13th of June 2017 on land at Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, Rutland. The work took place in advance of the construction of a single dwelling, an attenuation pond and site access track. Cropmarks of possible prehistoric origin had previously been identified within the area of the attenuation pond. Nine 30m long evaluation trenches identified areas and bands of limestone brash and clay which indicate that the cropmarks probably have a geological rather than an archaeological origin. No other archaeological features or deposits were found during the evaluation.

The report and archive will be deposited with Rutland Museums under Accession Number OAKRM.2017.16

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 at Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, Rutland. Under planning application 2016/1206/FUL it is intended to build a partially subterranean family dwelling, associated landscaping, attenuation pond and access track. Such work would have an impact upon any buried archaeological remains should any be present. Therefore the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council requested that a programme of archaeological trial trenching be undertaken prior to any construction work taking place.

Background

The proposed development site lies close to Rob Hall Farm to the north of Ryhall Road and is located to the north-east of Great Casterton in Rutland. It is approximately 4.2 miles to the north of Stamford (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies at an average height of around 60m aOD. It is currently a large open field surrounded by well-maintained hedgerows and small areas of managed woodland. The ground generally slopes down to the north and north-east with a slight rise to the adjacent field to the south (Fig. 3). The British Geological Survey indicates that the underlying geology of the area is clay alluvium overlying sandstone and limestone and argillaceous rocks.

To the west of the site an Iron Age settlement site was identified in 1998 with possible prehistoric cropmarks to the west of that site. Worked flint of Mesolithic and Neolithic date has also been recovered around the vicinity of the proposed development site. The well-documented Roman site of Great Casterton lies to the south of the site and other

nearby prehistoric sites have also been discovered. On the proposed development site itself possible cropmarks have been interpreted as possible enclosures, field systems and ring ditches. The site therefore had a reasonably high potential for buried archaeological remains and an archaeological evaluation consisting of nine 30m long trenches was requested by the senior planning archaeologist.

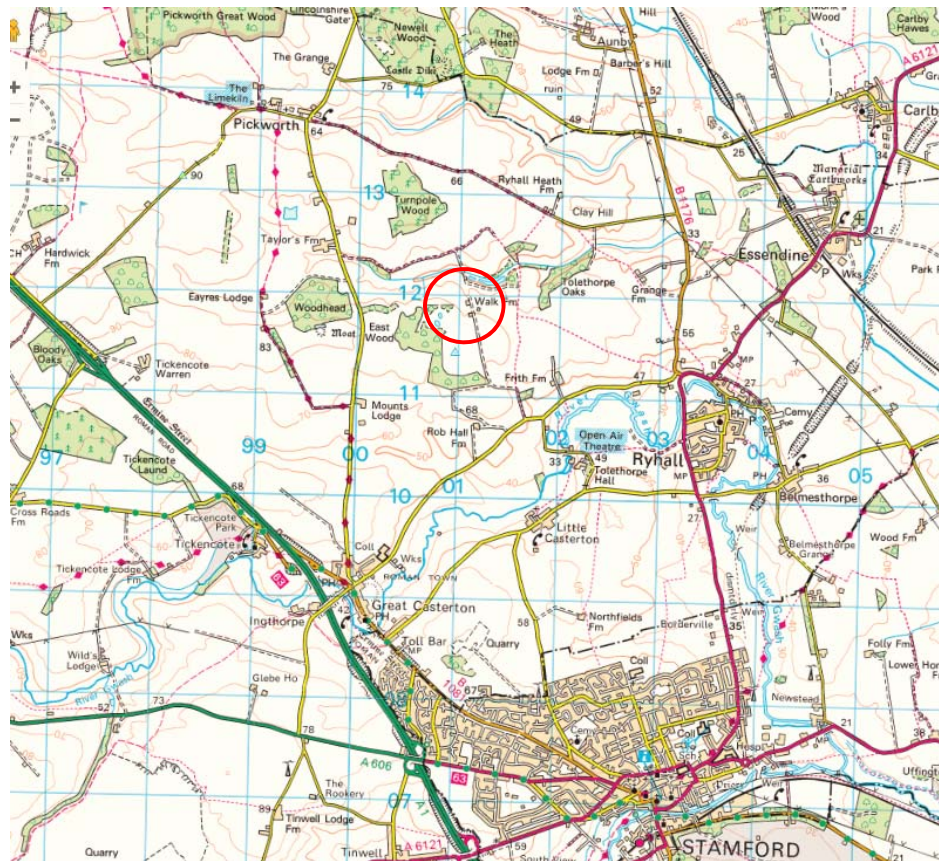


Figure 1 Site location

Reproduced from the OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright 1994. Licence Number AL 100029495



Figure 2 Site location
Plan supplied by client. North to top of map



Figure 3 General view of site
Looking south-west. Attenuation pond to be placed to the left of the digger, house to be in area of longer grass behind the cabin and before the woodland

Objectives

The overall objectives and research agenda are detailed in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for *Evaluation on land at Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, Rutland* (ULAS 2017).

The specific objectives for this programme of 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 to be affected by the ground works.
- 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.
- To ascertain the nature and extent of any further mitigation works required prior to development commencing.

Methodology

The methodology used throughout the evaluation is discussed in detail in the ULAS WSI. For this evaluation a 7.5 tonne 360⁰ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used under constant archaeological supervision. The machine was supplied and operated by the client and the trenches will be backfilled at a time convenient to the client.

Trenches were located using hand-held GPS equipment and tied in to the national grid. Should archaeological deposits be found systems were in place to take environmental samples.

Results

As noted above, nine 1.6m wide trenches were placed across the proposed development site. Trenches 1 to 4 were located on the site of the attenuation pond close to the area of possible cropmarks (Fig. 4). Trenches 5 and 6 covered the site of the proposed house whilst Trench 7 was placed within an area of landscaping to the north of the house. Trenches 8 and 9 were located on the access track which will lead out to the road to the west of the site.

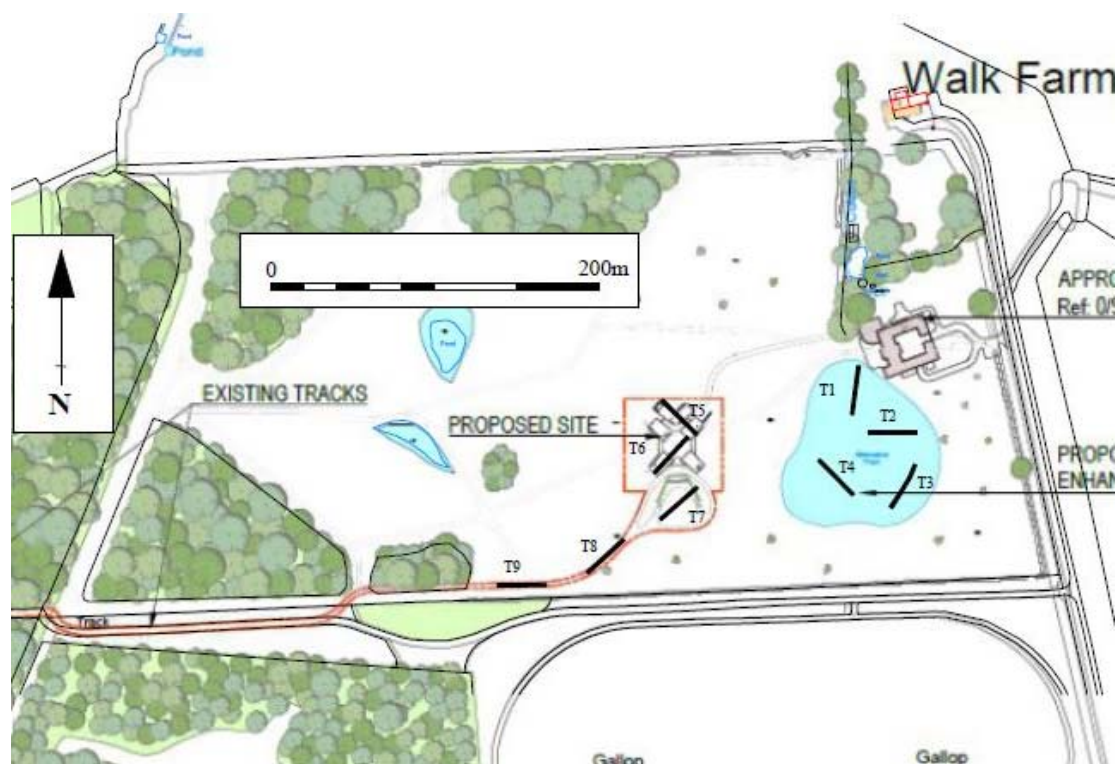


Figure 4 Trench locations

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4

These four trenches were located within the area of the attenuation pond and the possible cropmarks (Figs 5 to 8). The ground at this point sloped down towards the north and north-east. As well as dropping down the ground had a number of gentle folds in the slope. All four trenches exhibited the same characteristics of having a mid-grey brown silty clay topsoil with depths generally between 0.30m and 0.40m. Removal of the topsoil exposed a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil which varied in depth between 0.16m and 0.35m with the deeper areas of subsoil corresponding with slight hollows and folds in the ground. The natural substratum consisted of areas and bands of limestone brash in a matrix of yellowish silt clay and bands of mid red brown clay. A number of land drains were observed cutting into the natural substratum but no archaeological features or deposits were found within any of the four trenches.

Trenches 5, 6 and 7

These three trenches were located in the area of the proposed subterranean house and contained the same topsoil as seen in Trenches 1 to 4 although the depth of this layer was noticeably less at between 0.12m and 0.24m. Beneath the topsoil the subsoil was different to Trenches 1 to 4 and consisted of a mid-yellowish brown silty clay which was also quite shallow having a thickness between 0.09m and 0.18m. The natural substratum in this part of the field was also markedly different and was a consistent mid orange brown clay with mottles and streaks of blue grey clay (Figs 9 and 11). No land drains were seen in any of these trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the three trenches.

Trenches 8 and 9

Trenches 8 and 9 were placed over the line of the proposed access track leading south and westwards towards the highway. The topsoil and subsoil matched that seen in Trenches 5 to 7 and had similar depths. The same consistent mid orange brown clay substratum was seen in Trench 8 but along with the clay some patches of limestone and yellowish clay were observed in Trench 9. Land drains were observed in both of these trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were found in either trench.



Figure 5 Trench 1
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 6 Trench 2
Looking west. 1m scale. Area for the house in background



Figure 7 Trench 3
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 8 Trench 4
Looking south-east. 1m scale



Figure 9 Trench 5
Looking north-west. 1m scale



Figure 10 Trench 6
Looking south-west. 1m scale



Figure 11 Trench 7
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 12 Trench 8
Looking north-east. 1m scale



Figure 13 Trench 9
Looking west along proposed access track. 1m scale

Table 1: Trench Summaries

Trench	Min depth	Max depth	Geology	Comments
1	0.46m	0.77m	bands of limestone and clay	1 land drain
2	0.48m	0.62m	bands of limestone and clay	2 land drains
3	0.54m	0.73m	bands of limestone and clay	4 land drains
4	0.46m	0.57m	bands of different clays	1 land drain, 1 water pipe
5	0.24m	0.37m	consistent clay	empty
6	0.22m	0.27m	consistent clay	empty
7	0.20m	0.37m	consistent clay	empty
8	0.28m	0.37m	consistent clay	1 land drain
9	0.29m	0.40m	clay with areas of limestone	1 land drain

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological features to be present within the development area none were found. The possible cropmarks tentatively identified as features appear to be far more likely to be a result of the extremely variable geology on the eastern side of the site.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

9 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

1 photo record sheet,

1 contact sheet of digital photographs,

CD of digital photographs taken during the evaluation.

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.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by V Score and the fieldwork carried out by A Hyam. Thanks are due to the client Mr M Williams for providing and operation the excavator.

Bibliography

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2008. *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation for *Evaluation on land at Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, Rutland*.

Appendix 1 OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-287520		
	Project Name	Evaluation at Walk Barn, Great Casterton		
	Start/end dates of field work	12-06-2017 - 13-06-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	No/ Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Cultivated Land		
	Monument Type/Period	None/None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None/none		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	2016/1206/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, Rutland. PE9 4BJ		
	Study Area	5ha		
	Site Coordinates	TF 0100 1176		
	Height OD	60m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	V Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	A Hyam		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / Willoughby Farm Partnership		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	Rutland MusService	Rutland MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)		OAKRM.2017.16	OAKRM.2017.16
	Contents		Photos	Trench recording sheets, photo record sheets
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Walk Barn, Ryhall Road, Rutland		
	Author	A Hyam		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-091		
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