

**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land north of Melton Road,
Scalford, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 76110 24181**

Donald Clark



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**An Archaeological Excavation
On land north of
Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire**


NGR: SK 76110 24181

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning Reference: 17/00011/OUT

Client: Mr. Jonathan Agnew

Author: Donald Clark

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land North of Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching on land to the north of Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 76110 24181) prior to a proposed residential development. The archaeological fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist required four 20m trenches to be excavated within the proposed development area. These trenches produced no archaeological deposits and were photographed, measured and then backfilled.

A record of the archaeological evaluation will be transferred to the Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession No. X.A114.2017.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on the 2nd October 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of Mr. Jonathan Agnew on land north of Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Score 2017) had been produced by ULAS for the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as planning advisor to Melton Borough Council. It provided details of the aims, objectives and methodologies to be adopted during the course of the work. The fieldwork was intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment).

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

Site location, Topography and Geology

The sites lies on the western edge of Scalford approximately 7km from Melton Mowbray. It comprises a field bounded on all sides by hedgerows with houses to the east fronting onto King Street (Figs 2 and 3). To the east and west are hedgerows and the land is relatively level with a slight rise to the north at a height of c.118m O.D.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as bands of mudstone, specifically of the Whitby Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period and overlain with superficial Diamicton (Oadby Member) associated with Ice Age environments.

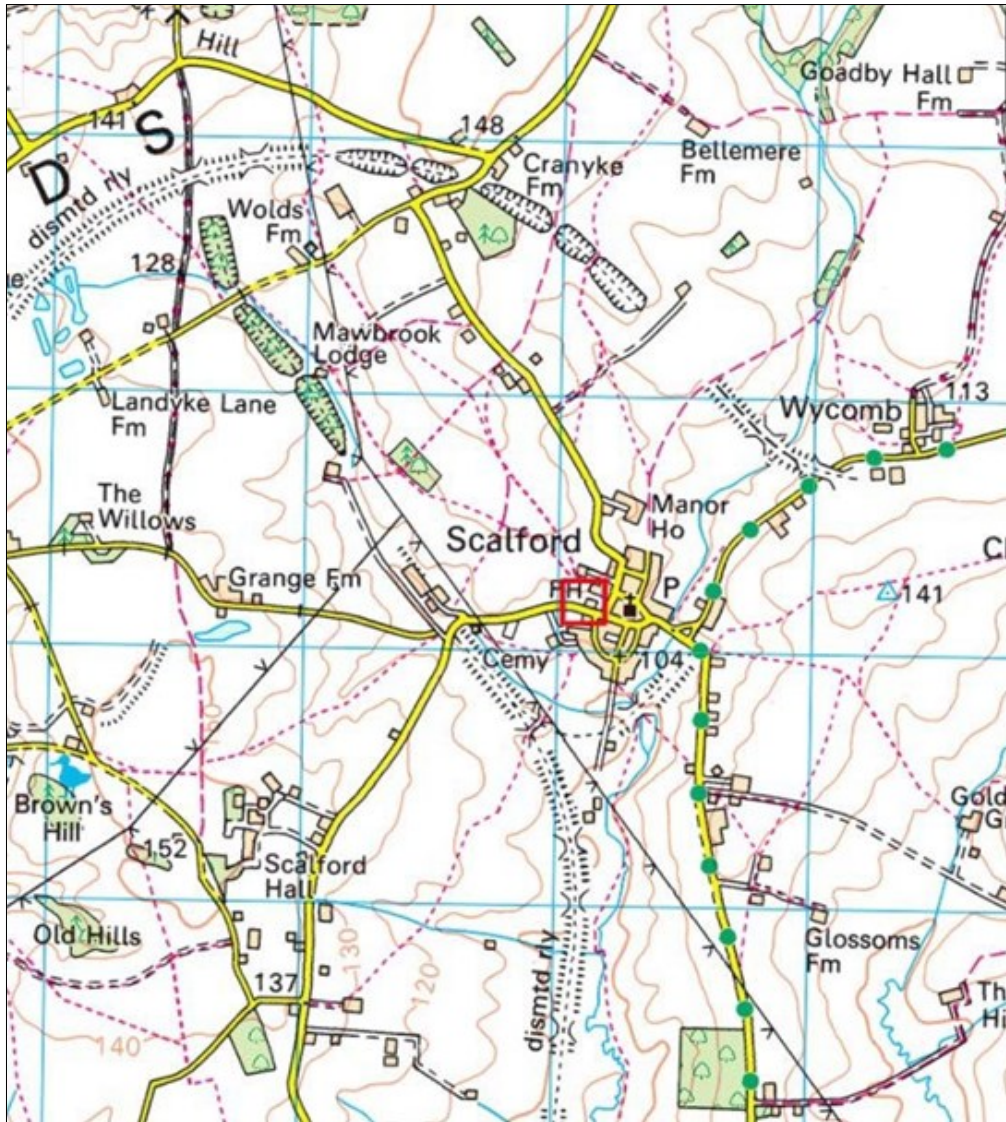


Figure 1: Location of the proposed site

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Figure 2: Outline of development area within Scaford village (provided by client)

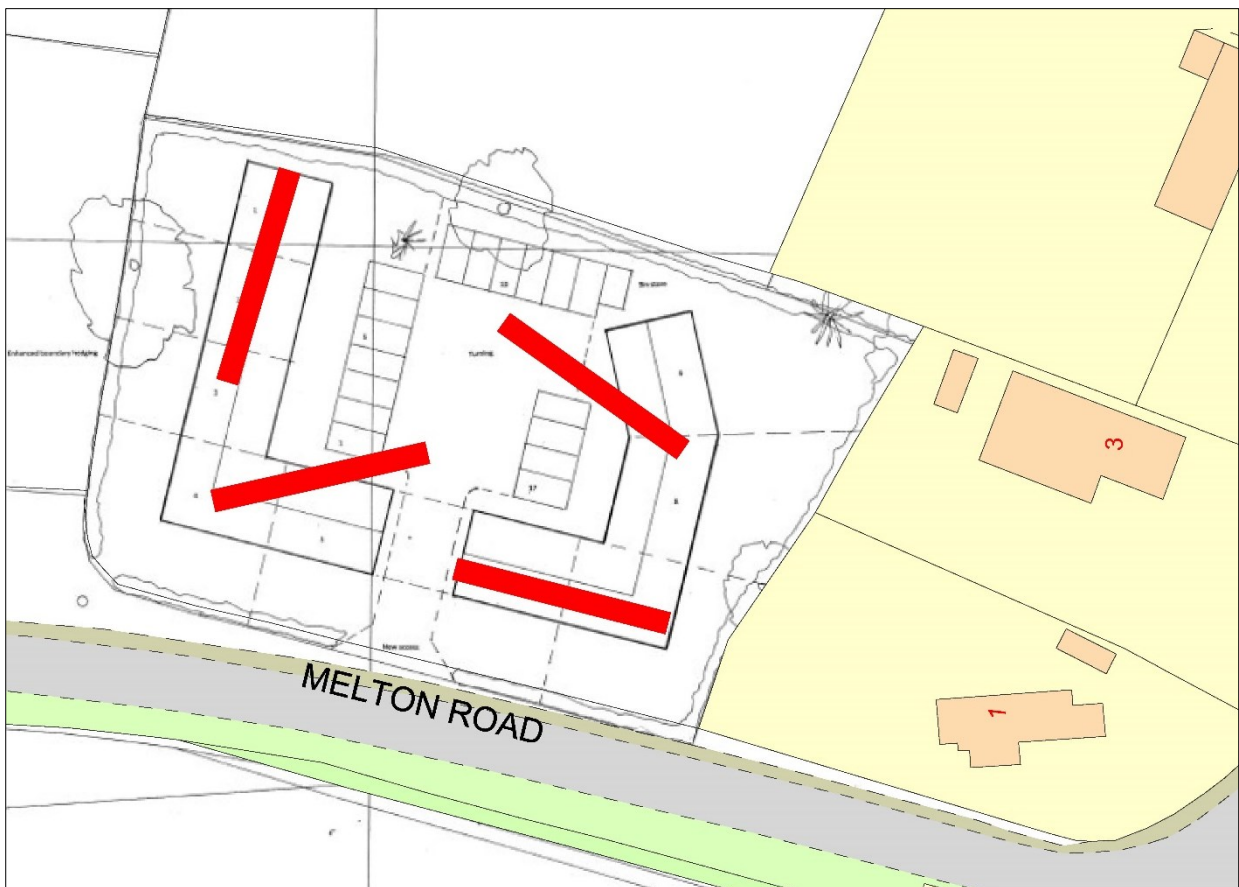


Figure 3: Proposed plan of development with trench positions

Historical and Archaeological Background

There is documentary evidence for a medieval market in Scalford and the site lies on the western edge of the Historic settlement core (MLE9169). There are village earthworks recorded to the south of the road, visible on the 2011 aerial photographs and appear to include a large platform (MLE23135). Ridge and furrow is still visible in the fields to the north-east and south-east. The village contains a number of historic buildings (many built of ironstone or Scalford brick) mostly along South Street and around the Church of St Egelwins. The 1884 OS 1st edition map shows the site with the same boundaries as currently.

Methodology

Prior to the machining of the trenches general photographs of the site area were taken. A total of four, 20m long by 1.6m wide trenches were excavated and examined. This represents a 5% sample of the proposed development area. The trench plan (Fig. 4) shows the location of the trenches.

Excavation was carried out with a machine appropriate for the work fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to expose the underlying strata. Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision.

The trenches were excavated down to the natural undisturbed ground. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Results

The four 20m x 1.6m evaluation trenches were excavated to the natural undisturbed ground and varied in depth from 0.34m to 0.56m. The natural ground was grey yellow clay with patches of sand and gravel and no signs of plough scarring or furrow was seen within the investigated areas (Figs 5-8).

Trench No.	Orientation	Minimum Depth	Maximum Depth	Comments
1	E-W	0.39m	0.51m	No archaeological deposits
2	NW-SE	0.45m	0.56m	No archaeological deposits
3	N-S	0.36m	0.55m	No archaeological deposits
4	NE-SW	0.34m	0.41m	No archaeological deposits

Table 1: Trench descriptions

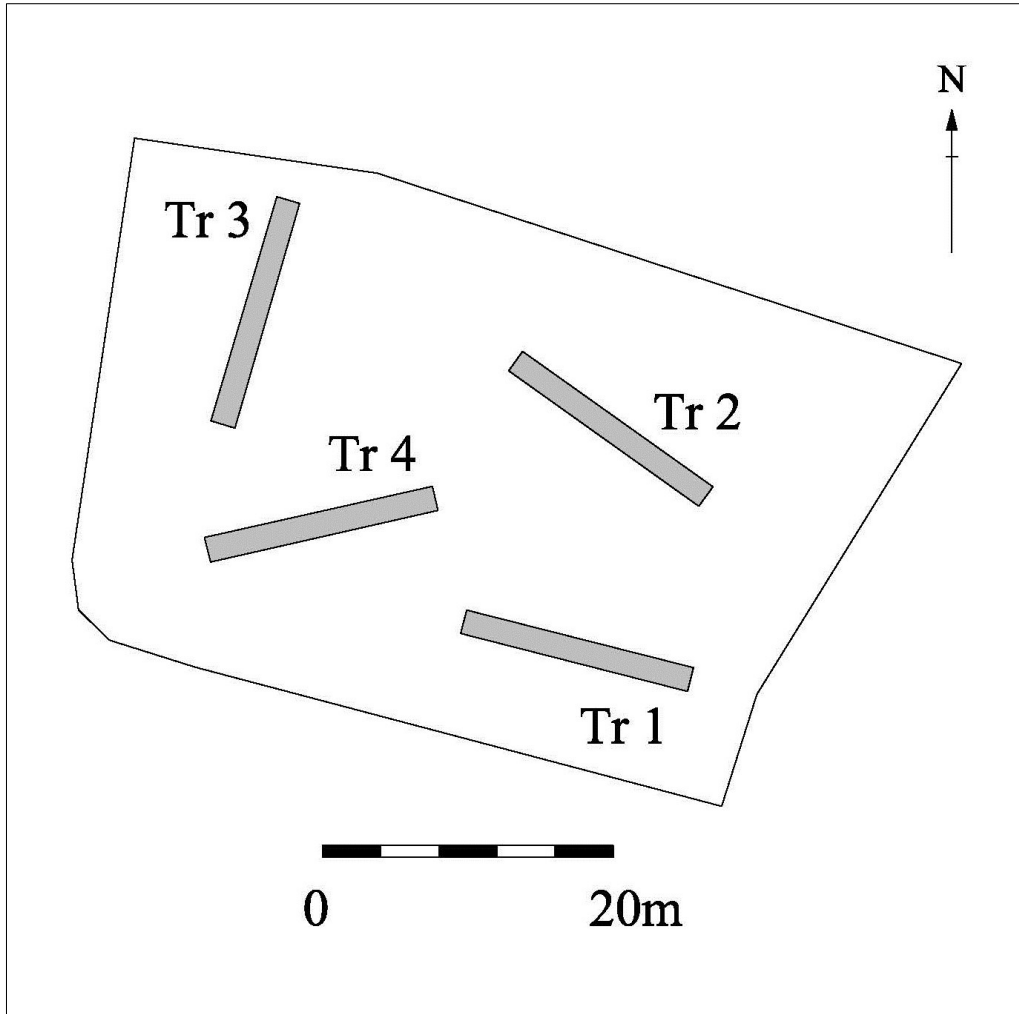


Figure 4: Position of trenches within proposed development area



Figure 5: Trench 1 looking east



Figure 6: Trench 2 looking south-east



Figure 7: Trench 3 looking north



Figure 8: Trench 4 looking north-east

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were present within the four trenches excavated during the evaluation. It may be concluded that any development is unlikely to have an impact on heritage assets within the development.

Publication

ULAS supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed detailing the results of the project (Appendix 1). Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Richard Clarke, machine operator of Planters Ltd, Enderby, Leicestershire, for assistance during the fieldwork and to Vicki Score for managing the project.

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Appendix 1 OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-298368		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Excavation on land North of Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire.		
	Start/end dates of field work	02-10-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	No / Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation trenching		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Paddock		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None /None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	17/00011/OUT			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	OS Field 1018, Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire		
	Study Area	3150 square metres		
	Site Coordinates	SK 76110 24181		
	Height OD	118m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	V Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	D. Clark		
Sponsor/Funding Body	Landowner J. Agnew			
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A114.2017	X.A114.2017
	Contents		Photos	Records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Excavation on land North of Melton Road, Scalford, Leicestershire.		
	Author	D. Clark		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2017-153		
	Date	2017		
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