

**An Archaeological
Evaluation on Land at
The Green, Donington le
Heath, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 42392 12244**


Roger Kipling



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on Land at The Green,
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in December 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Williams Homes on land at The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire, in advance of proposed residential development.

The evaluation provided no evidence of archaeological activity. A number of standing earthworks were surveyed and are likely to have been associated with the use of the site as allotment gardens.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A146.2017.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire, in advance of a proposed residential development. The site is located on the southern edge of the village outside the historic core of Hugglescote, which lies to the north. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that there are no known archaeological remains within the assessment area itself. However, there are a number of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

The Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) required a programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching in order to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and produce a mitigation strategy for the site.

The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2017; hereinafter WSI).

Fieldwork was undertaken in December 2017 and involved the machine excavation of trial trenches followed by hand cleaning and recording of trenches.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was 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).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site consists of a rectangular parcel of land, which has been in use as allotment gardens and was formerly pasture land outside the historic core of Hugglescote, which lies to the north. The Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire requires a programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and produce a mitigation strategy for the site.

The assessment area covers around 1.4 hectares and rises from the north to the south by around 135m aOD to around 142m aOD. The land is currently disused, having previously been used as allotments, and is overgrown and fairly inaccessible.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Radcliffe Member mudstone, overlain by sand and gravel.

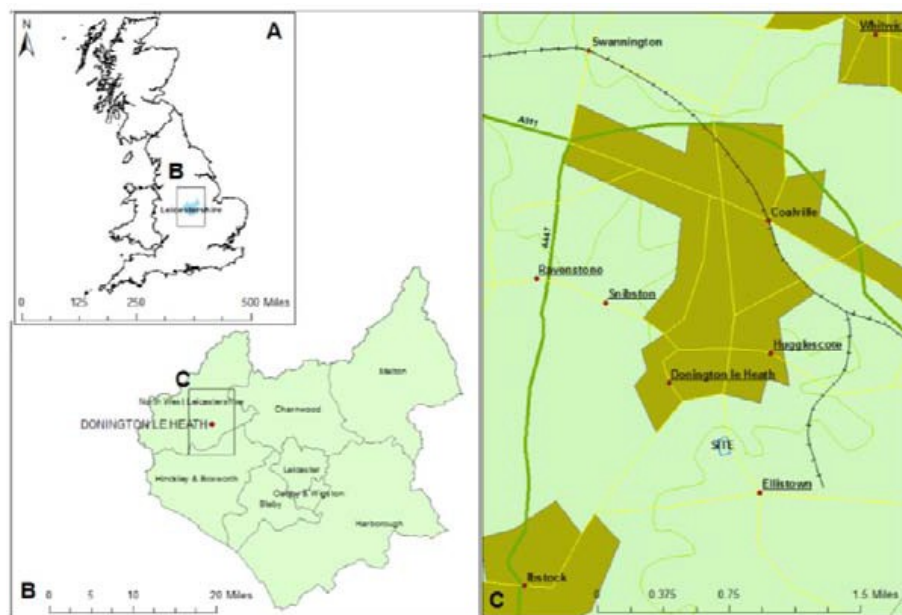


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development

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Figure 2: Location of the proposed development areas in red (supplied by client).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that whilst there are no known archaeological remains within the assessment area itself, several archaeological findspots are recorded in the vicinity.

The line of the Ashby to Nuneaton railway passed to the south of the site within a cutting. Hugglescote Station once lay just to the south of the site. This line was later used as a mineral railway but currently only the cutting remains.

There are findspots for prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains in the vicinity of the assessment area and enclosures associated with prehistoric field systems also lie nearby.

The site is outside the medieval core of both Hugglescote and Donington le Heath, but the 12th-century Manor House lies 550m to the north-west of the site and there are earthworks associated with medieval building platforms near to this. There may be further medieval remains close to the medieval core of Hugglescote, which lies 70m north of the assessment area.

The site has remained agricultural in nature since at least the post-medieval period and therefore it was considered that the preservation of any extant archaeological remains was likely to be good.

Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the archaeological works were as follows:

- 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 a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

In addition, the archaeological work was identified to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims, derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

Prehistoric

To characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability (4C).
To investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries (4F).

*The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight *et al.* 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

To investigate the landscape context of rural settlements (5H).

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

To review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C) Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E).

To investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I).

Methods

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained, an OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms. Following recommendations from the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, a programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken, comprising the opening of three trial trenches targeting the locations of the proposed buildings and access road.

An excavated sample of the *c.*1.4 ha. comprised 13 30m x 2m trenches (*c.*780m²), providing a representative sample of the proposed extended area of development (Table 1; Figure 2). A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (*c.*2m wide) was employed under constant archaeological supervision, with excavation ceasing at undisturbed natural deposits. The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Summary details of the trenches are outlined in Table 1 below.

Results

A total of thirteen trenches (1-13) were excavated across the development area, with trenches targeting proposed locations of housing. All trenches revealed coarse orange-brown natural sands and gravels beneath a mid grey-brown clay loam topsoil and underlying mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil.

The site featured a series of low earthworks broadly aligned north-south and east-west, machine excavation across a number of which (**Trenches 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 & 11**) revealed these to be of topsoil construction. It is assumed that these features are associated with the use of the land as allotment gardens during the modern period.

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH (m)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (m)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (m)	DESCRIPTION
1	E-W	30	0.15-0.19	0.06-0.18	no archaeology present
2	NE-SW	30	0.10-0.26	0.10-0.18	no archaeology present
3	SE-NW	30	0.08-0.32	0.10-0.17	no archaeology present
4	SSW-NNE	30	0.12-0.26	0.10-0.18	no archaeology present
5	N-S	30	0.10-0.18	0.08-0.16	no archaeology present
6	N-S	30	0.13-0.28	0.28-0.41	no archaeology present
7	N-S	30	0.10-0.20	0.08-0.20	no archaeology present
8	E-W	30	0.10-0.30	0.10-0.32	no archaeology present
9	NE-SW	30	0.10-0.20	0.18-0.43	no archaeology present
10	NNW-SSE	30	0.10-0.20	0.20-0.40	no archaeology present
11	SW-NE	30	0.10-0.25	0.23-0.50	no archaeology present
12	SW-NE	30	0.10-0.20	0.10-0.15	no archaeology present
13	E-W	30	0.10-0.22	0.12-0.40	no archaeology present

Table 1: Trench Descriptions



Figure 3: Site plan showing evaluation trench locations (red) and earthworks (black)



Figure 4: Trench 2: general view northeast (1m scale)



Figure 5: Trench 11: general view northeast (1m scale)

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation undertaken in December 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Williams Homes at The Green, Donington le Heath provided no evidence for archaeological activity. A number of standing earthworks were surveyed but appeared to be of modern origin and are likely to have been associated with the use of the site as allotment gardens.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A111 2017), consisting of paper, drawing and photographic records in addition to pottery sherds, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 13 x trench record sheets
- Photographic record indices
- 26 x 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

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Williams Homes. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

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ULAS 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation: The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire NGR: SK 42392 12244*

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Appendix 3: OASIS Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS ID	universi1-303796		
	Project Name	The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	04-12-2017; 05-12-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Waste ground		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential development		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination		
	Planning Ref.	15/00951/OUTM		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire, LE67 2GE		
	Study Area	1.4 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 42392 12244		
	Height OD	135m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (Leicester County Council)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Williams Homes		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A146 2017	X.A146 2017	X.A146 2017
	Contents	none	Photos	Site records Field notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation at The Green, Donington le Heath, Leicestershire</i>		
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