



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological
Evaluation on
Land Next to
Highwayside, South
Kilwort Road, North
Kilworth, LE17 6HE,
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SP 61325 83077

By Claire Brown



ULAS Report No 2018-074

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land Next to Highwayside House, South Kilworth Road, North
Kilworth, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 61325 83077

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land Next to Highwayside, South Kilworth Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire.

By Claire Brown

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land next to Highwayside, South Kilworth Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire, (SP 61325 83077) from the 18th to 19th April 2018. Four trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed construction of four dwellings in the former pasture field. Two trenches contained archaeological features but were shallow and lacking dating evidence and probably heavily truncated by ploughing in the form of visible ridge and furrow. The features comprised a post hole in Trench 1, and a post hole and a small, shallow pit in Trench 2. Trench 3 was empty of archaeology and Trench 4 only showed evidence of ridge and furrow.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A43.2018.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land next to Highwayside, South Kilworth Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire (SP61325 83077) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) to determine the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological deposits.

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, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with residential development of up to 3 dwellings on land off South Kilworth Road.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

North Kilworth lies in south Leicestershire east of Lutterworth. The proposed development area lies to the south of the village (Figs 1 and 2) on the western side of South Kilworth Road, adjacent to Highwayside House. The land is currently a pasture field with clear ridge and furrow earthworks running north to south across the site (Fig. 3). It lies at approximately 143m OD.

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Charmouth mudstone formation, overlain with Mid Pleistocene Glaciofluvial deposits.

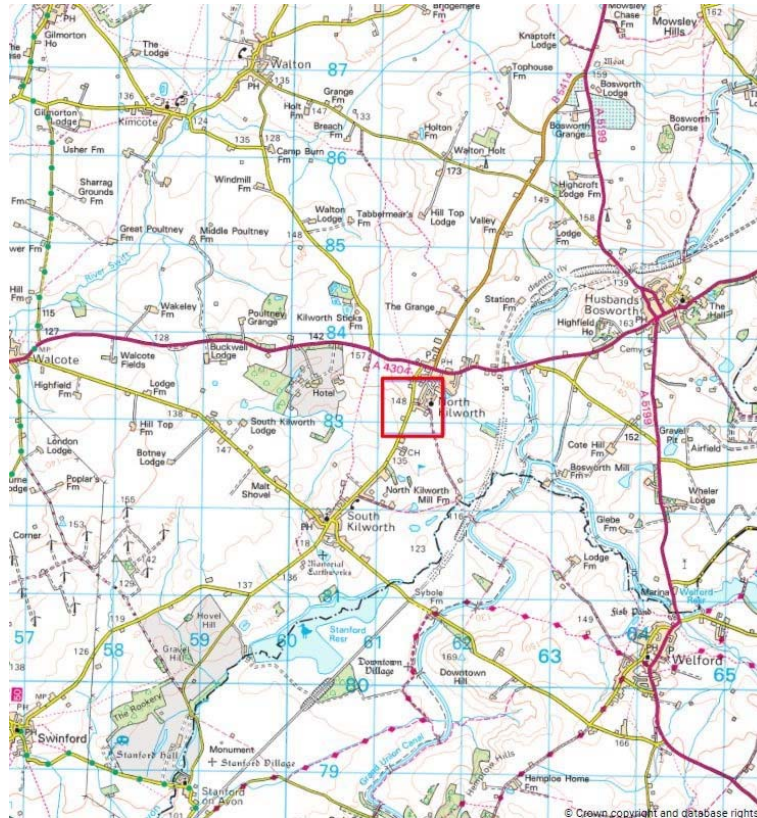


Figure 1: Site Location

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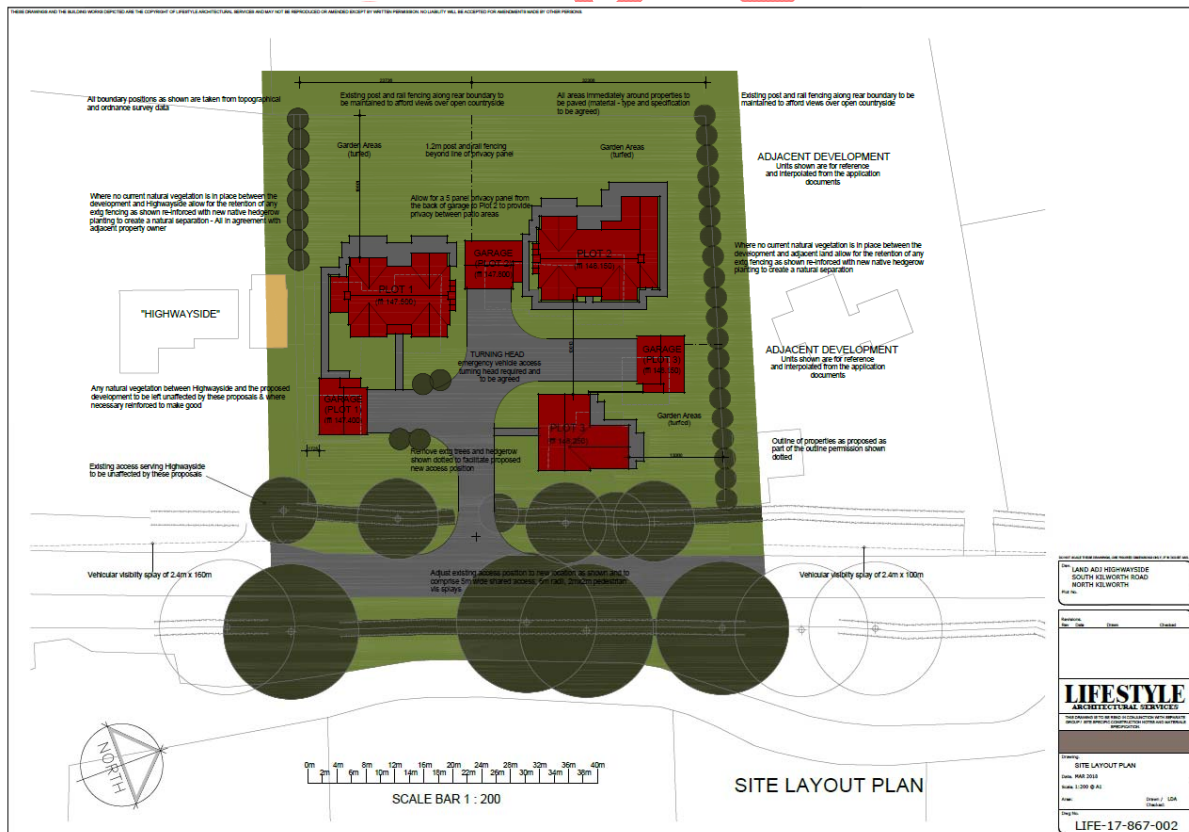


Figure 2: Location of the site showing the proposed development plan (provided by client).

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies on the southern outskirts of the village core, which was mentioned, along with neighbouring South Kilworth, in the Domesday Book of 1086 and shows evidence of medieval arable agriculture in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks.



Figure 3: Proposed site showing ridge and furrow.
Bluesky data Google earth 2018

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological 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.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context in order to formulate a mitigation strategy to address the impacts of the proposed development on cultural heritage.

Draft Research Themes

Initial objectives derived from East Midlands Heritage research agenda (Knight et al. 2012) include:

Prehistoric

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

Romano-British

Investigate landscape context of rural settlements (5H)

Early Medieval – High Medieval

Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C)

Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E)

Investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I)

Post-medieval

Research the development of industry and its impact upon landscape and settlement morphology (8F).

Methodology

Archaeological trial trenching, took place between 18th and 19th April 2018. It followed a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation of land next to Highwayside, South Kilworth Road, North Kilworth (SP 61325 83077) Leicestershire, (Brown 2018). The trial trenching was undertaken to provide a c. 4.7% sample of the 0.34 ha area. The work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2013).

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

Three of the trenches were aligned and placed on top of the ridges where any archaeology might have been protected, with a fourth perpendicular to the ridges and the road (Fig. 4).

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed and separated under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.



Figure 4: Proposed and trench plan

Results

The excavated trenches 1-4 and features [01], [03], and [05] are presented below and shown on Fig. 5 and Table 1

Table 1: Trench Summaries.

Trench	Length (m)	Max height of Trench to base	Natural Substratum	Notes	Min. depth to archaeology/natural (m)
1	c.25	0.45	Yellowish Brown plastic clay	Post hole [01]	0.35
2	c.25	0.40	Yellowish Brown plastic clay	Post hole [03] and pit [05]	0.33
3	c.25	0.66	Yellowish Brown plastic clay and orange sandy gravel	Negative trench.	0.32
4	c.25	0.48	Yellowish Brown plastic clay	Negative trench.	0.33

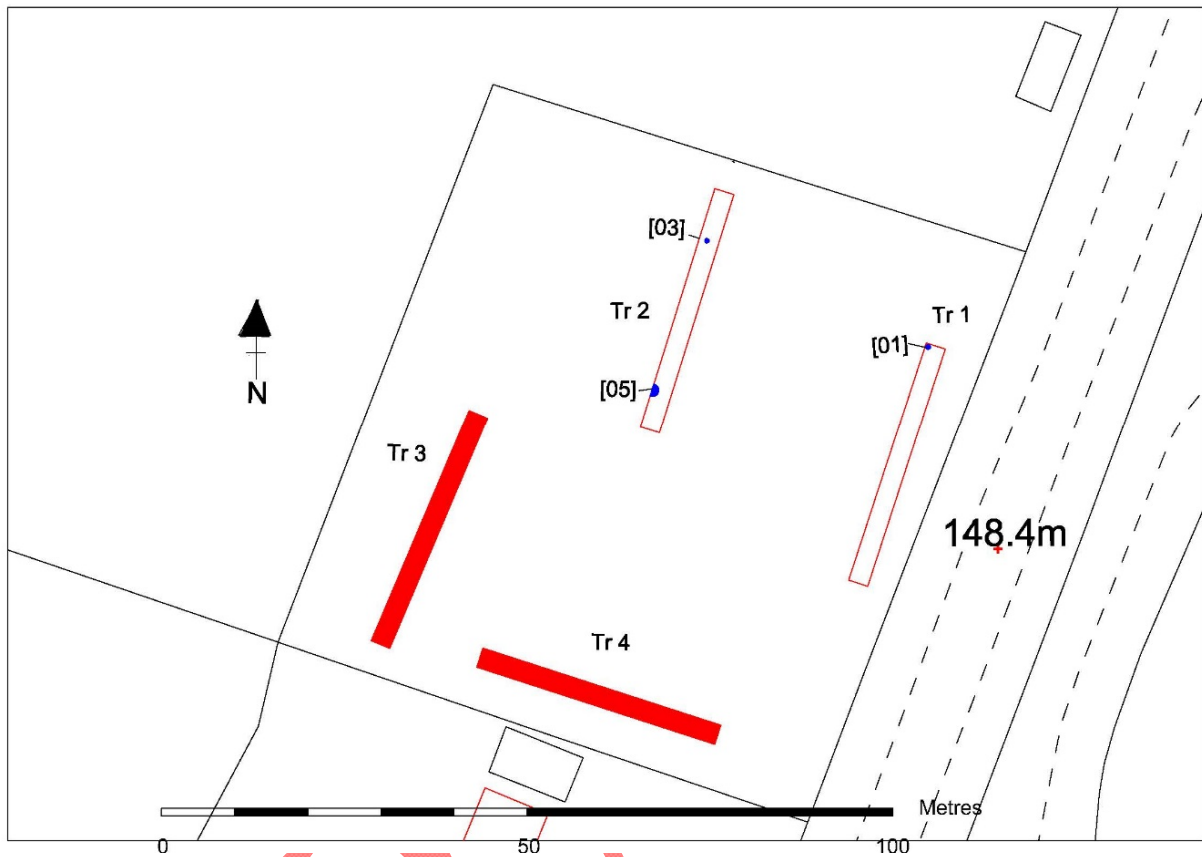


Figure 5: Trenches 1-4 showing archaeological features.

Trench 1 (Figs 5-9)

A single post hole was uncovered in the north east corner of the trench. Post-hole [01] was 0.40m in diameter, 0.8m in depth and contained charcoal flecked grey-brown fill (02). Although excavated there was no dating evidence (Figs 6- 9).



Figure 6: Trench 1 looking north-east



Figure 7: Post hole [01] in Trench 1

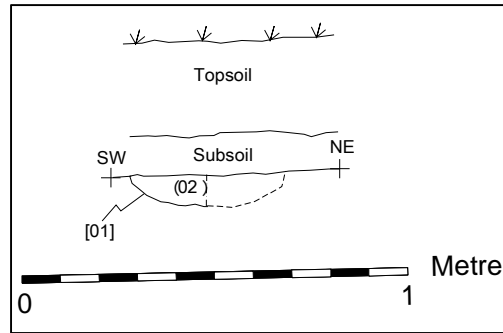


Figure 8: North-west section of posthole [01]

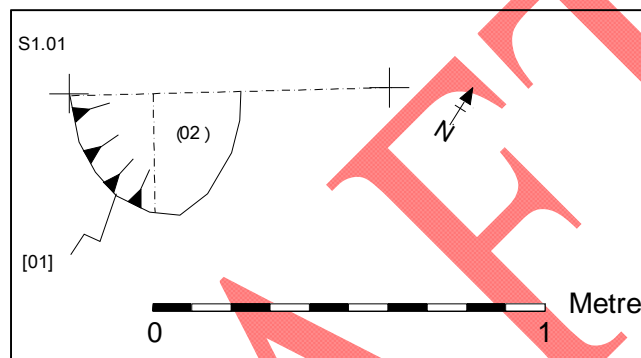


Figure 9: Plan of posthole [01].

Trench 2 (Figs 5 10-16)

This trench revealed another shallow post hole [03]. This was 0.30m in diameter and 0.06m in depth, (Figs 11-13). To the south was a small pit [05], also shallow (0.06m in depth) and 0.95m in diameter (Figs 14- 16). Both had a similar orange grey fill with charcoal flecks and small flints. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.



Figure 10: Trench 2 looking north-east



Figure 11: Post hole [03] in Trench 2

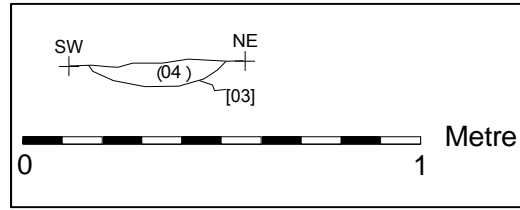


Figure 12: North-west facing section of post hole [03] in Trench 2

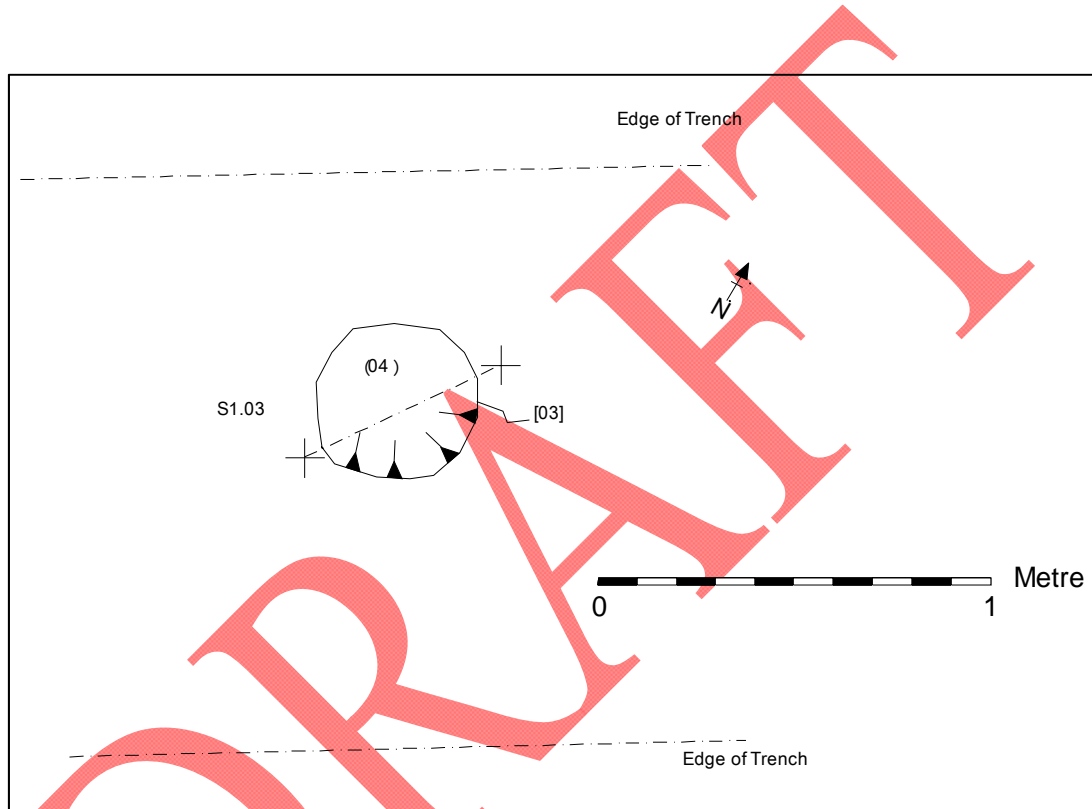


Figure 13: Plan of posthole [03] in Trench 2

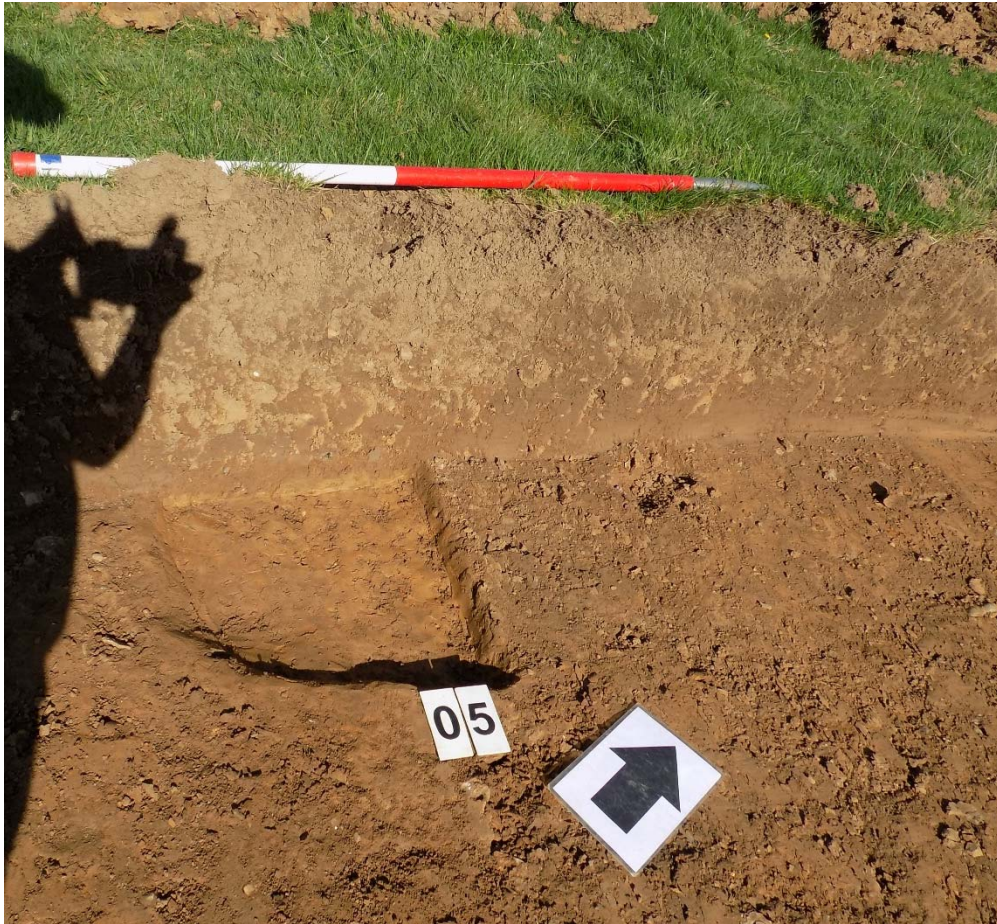


Figure 14: Pit [05] in Trench 2

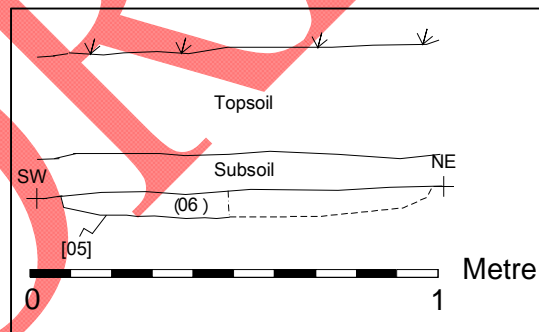


Figure 15: North-west facing section of pit [05] in Trench 2

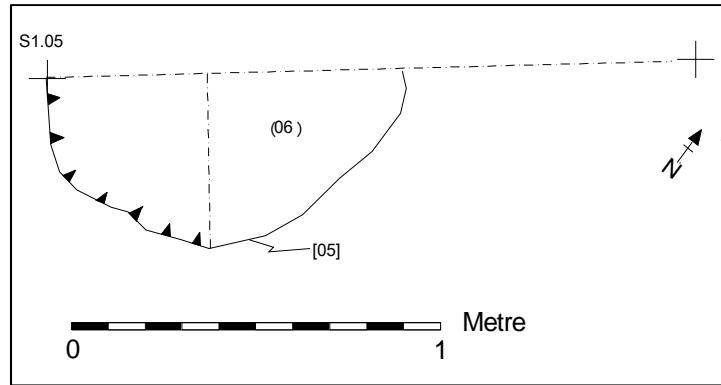


Figure 16: Plan of pit [05] in Trench 2

Trenches 3 and 4 (Figs 5, 17 and 18)

These trenches were both negative for archaeological features. Trench 3 had a band of deeper sand and gravel at its south-west end but this became yellow/orange clay in the northern two thirds of the trench. Trench 4 contained clean yellow/orange clay.



Figure 17: Trench 3 looking north-east



Figure 18: Trench 4. Looking north-west

Discussion

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching of the development area revealed evidence of some undated features. The lack of dating makes it difficult to determine the nature of the features, however, their shallowness indicates that they are heavily truncated by agricultural activity (ridge and furrow).

Archive

The site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service*, under accession no. X.A43.2017.

The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 4 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos

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 at the University of York (Appendix 1). A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-315373		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation Land on land off South Kilworth road adjacent to Highwayside house, North Kilworth, Leicestershire.		
	Start/end dates of field work	18/04/2018 – 19/04/2018		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Arable		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
	Planning Ref.	Planning Ref: 16/02085/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Land adjacent to Highwayside house, off South Kilworth Road, North Kilworth, Leicestershire		
	Study Area	0.43ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 61325 83077		
	Height OD	143 OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC) Harborough District Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Claire Brown/Vicki Score		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Lee Alesbrook		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A43.2018	X.A43.2018	X.A43.2018
	Contents	None	Photos	Evaluation records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation		
	Author	C. Brown		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-074		
	Date	23/04/2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author Claire Brown of ULAS. Vicki Score managed the project. Richard Clark of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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23/04/2018

Appendix 1: Site and Trench Photos



Trench 1 Facing northeast



Trench 3 Facing northeast



Trench 1 Facing southwest



Trench 3 Facing southwest



Trench 2 Facing north east



Trench 4 Facing northeast



Trench 4 Facing southwest



Site looking South



Site looking North



Site looking West



Site looking East



Mechanical excavator used on site

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