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LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on
Land at former Shangton CARE village.
Melton Road,
Shangton,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP72130 96440

Andrew Hyam



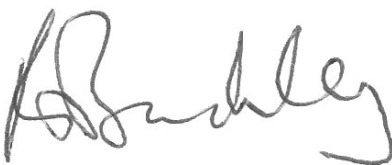
ULAS Report No. 2018-091
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For: Hardwicks Development Limited

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2018-091	 R.J. Buckley	17/5/2018

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**ULAS Report Number 2018-091
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Accession Number X.A50.2018**

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land at the former Shangton CARE village, Melton Road, Shangton, Leicestershire on the 8th and 9th of May 2018 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The site lies close to the former medieval village core of Shangton and is also close to the Gartree Road which follows the line of a former Roman road. The surrounding fields contain remnants of medieval ridge and furrow. Therefore the Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist, as advisor to the local planning authority, requested that a staged programme of archaeological investigation take place to identify, locate and record any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development.

Eleven trenches of varying length evaluation trenches were excavated across the site none of which revealed any evidence of archaeological features or deposits.

The report will be archived under accession number X.A50.2018

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 Shangton CARE village, Melton Road, Shangton, Leicestershire. Under planning application 16/0034/OUT proposals have been submitted for the construction of up to 27 new dwellings with associated garages landscaping and access. 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. This follows on from an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) produced by ULAS in 2011 (ULAS Report 2011-008).

Background

The proposed development site lies approximately 15km to the south-east of Leicester and 10km north of Market Harborough within the Harborough District of Leicestershire (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north, east and south by hedges of adjacent fields. The western side is partially open to a large field with mixed grass and wooded areas. The application area was until relatively recently a care home and consists of a roughly rectangular parcel of land containing modern, purpose-built single-storey residential units and communal buildings which are all now empty. The buildings, which were constructed in the 1960s, are arranged on either side of a private access road which runs through the centre of the site (Figure 2). Associated pathways, flower beds and some parking areas lead off from the road and surround the buildings. Each building is separated by grassed spaces with semi-mature trees growing across the site (Figure 3

and Figure 4). At the time of the evaluation the site had been empty for around four years such that parts of the site were becoming slightly overgrown. The site slopes down quite steeply from 125m OD along the Melton Road to 105m OD at the eastern end of the application area, although the majority of the area is between 110-115m OD. The application area measures approximately 3 hectares

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, consisting of mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. The superficial geology is mainly that of alluvium, consisting of clays, silts and sands.

The existing 1960s houses will all be demolished and are presently undergoing a soft-strip. The proposed new houses will be built across the site but the present central access road will be retained (Figure 5).



Figure 1 Site location

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Figure 2 Shangton CARE village
Red line outline shows application area. 100m grid, north to top



Figure 3 General view of CARE village
Looking south-east along central access road

[illegible]

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Objectives

The overall objectives and research agenda are detailed in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for *Archaeological Evaluation by Trial trenching on land at Shangton CARE Village, Melton Road, Leicestershire* (ULAS 2018).

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 the 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 360⁰ tracked 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 over the footprints of proposed new houses using tapes and hand-held GPS equipment. The excavated trenches were tied in to the national grid. Should any archaeological deposits be found systems were in place to take environmental samples.

The WSI indicated that nine 30m x 1.6m trenches and four 20m x 1.6m trenches be placed over the footprint of each proposed building. The proximity of existing buildings, services, trees and other constraints along with limited machine access space meant that the number of trenches had to be reduced to eleven. Some of the trench lengths also had to be reduced in order to fit between existing buildings (Figure 6).



Figure 6 Trench locations

Results

Trench dimensions and depths of deposits are shown in Table 1 at the end of this section.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was intended to be a 20m long trench set between two existing buildings. The actual distance between the buildings was only 18m meaning that with safe machining space only 11m could be excavated across a former lawn and flower bed (Figure 7). The fine topsoil consisted of a mid-grey-brown clayish silt with a light yellow-brown silty clay subsoil. The exposed natural substratum was a slightly greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional flint inclusions. A telecoms cable within a metal conduit was encountered towards the south-east end of the trench otherwise the natural was undisturbed.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 2

As with Trench 1 the available space meant that only a 13m trench could be excavated instead of the specified 20m (Figure 8). A modern cable was observed at the southern end of the trench along with a large modern disturbed patch in the centre of the trench. A ceramic field drain also ran from east to west across the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 3 and Trench 4

These two trenches were located on the north-eastern side of the central access road in an open space which sloped up towards the north. In order to avoid trees and modern disturbances Trench 3 was skewed to follow an east to west orientation and a small spur added to the north-east end to create a 27m long trench with a 5m spur (Figure 9). Trench 4 was then joined to Trench 3 again to maximise the available length. Much of Trench 3 had a thick layer of redeposited subsoil over the original topsoil and subsoil. This redeposited material appears to have come from the excavation and subsequent landscaping of nearby house platforms in the 1960s. Only a small amount of redeposited material was seen at the northern end of the otherwise blank Trench 4.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within either of the trenches.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was placed on a slight embankment running parallel to the access road. The embankment appeared to be more evidence of landscaping as there was a thick layer of redeposited subsoil across the whole trench creating quite a deep trench with a maximum depth of 0.93m (Figure 11). A modern electric cable and a ceramic field drain ran across the centre of the trench from north to south.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was placed within an area covered in hard-core behind the former workshop area to the north-east of the site. No topsoil remained although the subsoil still appeared to be present. A ceramic field drain ran from north to south along the length of the trench (Figure 12). Restrictions of hedges and the proximity of buildings meant that only a 16m long trench could be excavated.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was placed in the restricted spaces between a number of semi-mature trees so that an S-shaped trench resulted (Figure 13). The subsoil was quite homogenous and deep but did not appear to contain any redeposited material.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was the only trench able to reach its full specified length and was set in an open area on the south side of the site. A ceramic field drain ran from north to south close to the northern end of the trench (Figure 14). An area of modern disturbance with brick and metal debris was observed cutting into the natural at the north end of the trench this may be associated with landscaping and the culverting of a small stream which runs across the site.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located to the south of the access road running on a parallel alignment. A large, and deep, culverted drain cut across the centre of the trench leaving an area of disturbance otherwise the natural substratum was undisturbed.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was fitted into a space between an existing building and a large number of trees so that only 14m of the specified 20m could be excavated (Figure 16). Despite this restriction the proposed footprint of the building was still covered by the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was fitted into a small area of garden between an existing building and the former sports hall (Figure 17). Despite having the appearance of being heavily

landscaped the topsoil and subsoil were still relatively undisturbed. A foul-water pipe cut across the trench as did a power cable and fresh-water pipe.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the trench.

Two more trenches were specified but could not be excavated. One was located to the south-west of the site and could not be reached with the machine due to buildings and large trees blocking access. The ground around this trench was also heavily landscaped which strongly suggested that the area would be badly disturbed. The second trench which could not be excavated ran across the central access road towards the eastern side of the site. The road is currently in constant use and, also, most of the site services run beneath this road which suggests that the area is likely to be badly disturbed.

Trench measurements

Trench	Length (m)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Comments
1	11	0.26	0.48	Cable at SE end
2	13	0.26	0.46	Services at SE end, field drain and modern disturbance
3	27 + 5	0.35	0.64	Thick layer of redeposited subsoil over area from landscaping
4	19	0.41	0.57	Redeposited layer at N end
5	23	0.73	0.93	Landscaped area
6	16	0.51	0.76	Field drain along entire length
7	18	0.82	0.93	Curved trench cut through area to avoid trees
8	30	0.57	1.13	Field drain near N end, some modern disturbance
9	28	0.58	0.95	Telephone cables and drainage pipe disturbance
10	14	0.67	0.83	Trench impeded by proximity of trees
11	17	0.49	0.67	Pipe and cable disturbance

Table 1 Trench details



Figure 7 Trench 1
Looking west



Figure 8 Trench 2
Looking south



Figure 9 Trench 3
Looking west with additional spur on right



Figure 10 Trench 4
Looking south. Junction with Trench 3 on right



Figure 11 Trench 5
Looking east



Figure 12 Trench 6
Looking north (arrow in trench is misplaced)



Figure 13 Trench 7
Looking west



Figure 14 Trench 8
Looking north-east



Figure 15 Trench 9
Looking west



Figure 16 Trench 10
Looking north-east



Figure 17 Trench 11
Looking south-east

Discussion

Despite the potential for Roman and medieval archaeology no features or deposits were encountered within any of the trenches. The whole site appears to have been quite extensively landscaped and many service pipes, cables and trenches run from the road to and between the houses. Although many of the proposed new houses will be built in areas which have not been built on by 1960s structures the areas around them seems to have been disturbed.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

Eleven A4 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

One A4 phot record sheet,

One DVD containing 66 digital images,

Two A4 contact sheets of digital images.

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 fieldwork was carried out by A Hyam and G Day. Thanks are due to the owner Mr Richard Wright for supplying and driving 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, 2011. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Shangton CARE village, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report Number 2011-008.

ULAS, 2018. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching on Land at Shangton CARE village, Melton Road, Leicestershire, LE8 0PT*.

Appendix: OASIS Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-317081		
	Project Name	Evaluation on Land at Shangton CARE Village Melton Road, Shangton, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	08-05-20184 - 09-05-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	None/ Not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Care village		
	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.	16/000334/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Melton Road, Shangton, Leicestershire. LE8 0PL		
	Study Area	3 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 72130 96440		
	Height OD	105m to 125m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	R Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	A Hyam		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / Hardwicks Development Limited		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A50.2018	X.A50.2018
	Contents		Photos Survey data	Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Shangton CARE village, Melton Road, Shangton, Leicestershire.		
	Author	A Hyam		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-091		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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