



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 68 Leicester Road,  
Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9SD.**

**NGR: SK85779 00289**

**Ian Reeds**



**Site Name:** 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9SD

**Grid Ref:** SK 85779 00289

**Author:** Ian Reeds

**Client:** Paul Roberts/Architects LE1

**Planning Ref.** 2016/0375/OUT

**ULAS Report Number:** 2019-110

**Accession Number:** OAKRM:2019.18

<b>Filename/Version</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>2019-110v1</b>	<b>Richard Buckley</b>	<b>22/8/2019</b>

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## OASIS RECORD

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	Universi1-364227		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 68 Leicester Rd, Uppingham, LE15 9SD		
	<b>Start/end dates</b>	13-08-2019 13-08-2019		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No / No		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Grassland-Heathland3-Disturbed		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	None		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	2016/0375/OUT			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>County</b>	Leicestershire Rutland		
	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	68 Leicester Rd, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9SD		
	<b>Study Area</b>	5730m <sup>2</sup>		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 85779 00289		
	<b>Height OD</b>	152m		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Landowner/Developer		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Priest		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Ian Reeds		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>			
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>			
	<b>Contents</b>	None	Photographs/Report	Report/Record/Sheets Photo Trench
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9SD		
	<b>Author</b>	Reeds,I		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	2019		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

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# **An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9SD.**

**Ian Reeds**

## **Summary**

*This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9SD (NGR: SK 85779 00289.) in advance of the construction of new dwellings.*

*The development site consists of 1 parcel of land adjacent to 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham. The plot measures c.5730m<sup>2</sup> and stands at approximately c.152m OD. The site has been an agricultural field for the last 130 years but has seen little use recently, with very high undergrowth standing over 1m in height. 3 trenches were excavated, all producing a negative result.*

*The report will be deposited with Oakham and Rutland Museum under the accession number OAKRM:2019.18.*

## **Introduction**

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for Paul Roberts on behalf of Architects LE1.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Paul Roberts on behalf of Architects LE1 to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham, LE15 9SD. The work was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018), the work was carried out on 13 August 2019. Planning permission has been submitted for the erection of 6 new dwellings (2016/03756/OUT), on a site c.5730m<sup>2</sup>.

## Location and Geology

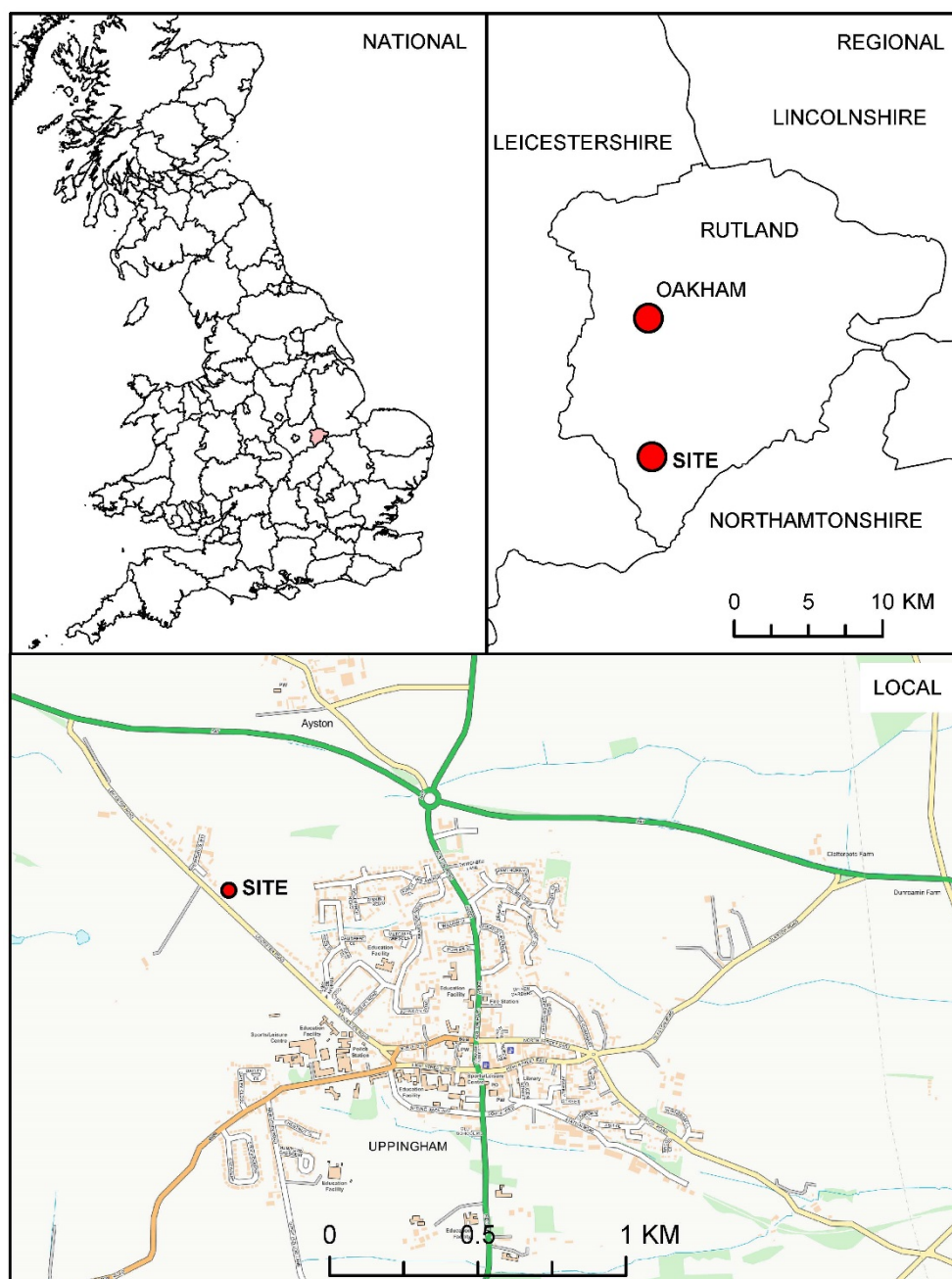


Figure 1: Site Location

*Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] (2019)  
Lidar source Environment Agency (2019)*

Uppingham is a market town located on the A47 in the county of Rutland in the East Midlands of England. The application site lies to the north-east of the town, on the north side of Leicester Road, immediately to the east of 68 Leicester Road (Fig.2). The land is currently grassed, relatively flat with high growth of vegetation standing to over 1m in height. The site measures

$c.5730m^2$  To the north is a pasture field (currently with cattle), to the east arable field, to the west is the dwelling of 68 Leicester Road. To the south is a hedge boundary and Leicester Road. It lies approximately  $c.152m$  OD. The site is accessed by a gate in the south-east corner.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Aalenian Age Northampton Sand Formation (sandstone, limestone and ironstone). There are no superficial deposits recorded.



Figure 2: Location of study area to be evaluated

## Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies  $c.1000m$  to the north-west of the historic core of Uppingham, and  $c.600m$  south-west of the village of Ayston, and early Ordnance Survey maps show that the field has largely been unchanged since the late 19th Century.

Uppingham is located in the old Hundred of Martinsley, which takes its name from a piece of land in the parish of Martinthorpe. The place name Uppingham means ‘homestead or village of the hill-dwellers’ (Mills 2003). At the time Domesday, Martinsley Hundred comprised only the manors of Oakham, Ridlington and Hambleton. The first mention of Ayston appears pre-Domesday in the only surviving Anglo-Saxon charter for Rutland with boundary classes. It states that three ‘cassata’ or ‘hides’ of land at Ayston to be granted to Æðelstan (Athelstan) by Edward the Confessor in 1046. The place name Ayston means ‘Farmstead of village of a man called Æthelstn’ (Mills 2003).

An assessment of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) in 2016 (by Richard Clark of Leicestershire County Council), showed that prehistoric artefacts have

been recovered during field surveys undertaken to the north and east of the present site (HER ref: MLE10542 and 21023). Cropmarks of a probable double ditched boundary or trackway have been noted c100m to the east of the site (MLE5848), and other less certain features, which might indicate the presence of a settlement site, are apparent on 2006 aerial photographs. To the south of Leicester Road archaeological investigation and recording undertaken in advance of a planned development revealed an east-west boundary ditch and a series of associated stone-filled pits. Pottery from the ditch indicated it was in use during the mid – late Iron Age; further to the east a north-south pit-alignment, whilst probably originating in the Iron Age, also contained Roman-British pottery in some of the northernmost features (MLE21946).



Figure 3: Aerial photograph of development area with site marked in yellow.

### Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within undisturbed parts of the development site.
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered.



- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

### Research Objectives

Initial Research objectives were derived from East Midlands Heritage research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012) and include the following aims:

- *Late Bronze Age and Iron Age.* 4.1 Dating, 4.2 site visibility, prospection and landscape exploration, 4.3 late Bronze Age and early Iron Age settlements, systems and major linear boundaries, 4.8 the agricultural economy and landscape.
- *Romano-British.* 5.4 Rural settlement patterns and landscapes, 5.5 agricultural economy.

### Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for exploratory trial trenching* prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (2019). The work was monitored by the client (Richard Elwell of Architects LE1) and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts; prior to machining of trenches general photographs were taken of the site. A total of two 30m x 1.60m trenches and one 40m x 1.60m trench were positioned over the proposed development area.

Due to constraints on the ground the number of trenches and their positions were altered from the proposed four x 30m trenches (fig.4.), this was due to an electricity supply located in the north-east corner of the field. This comprised of standing wooden pylons containing an electrical connection point and a number of overhead electrical power supply cables. This resulted in no archaeological evaluation work being carried out in the north-east section of the site. (fig.5.). Too partly compensate for this, trench two to the east of the area containing the electrical supply was extended to 40m.

The trenching was done with a wheeled JCB digger fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, owned and operated by Planters (Leicester) Ltd.

Trenches were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. The trenches were verbally signed off by the Planning Archaeologist before being backfilled by machine.

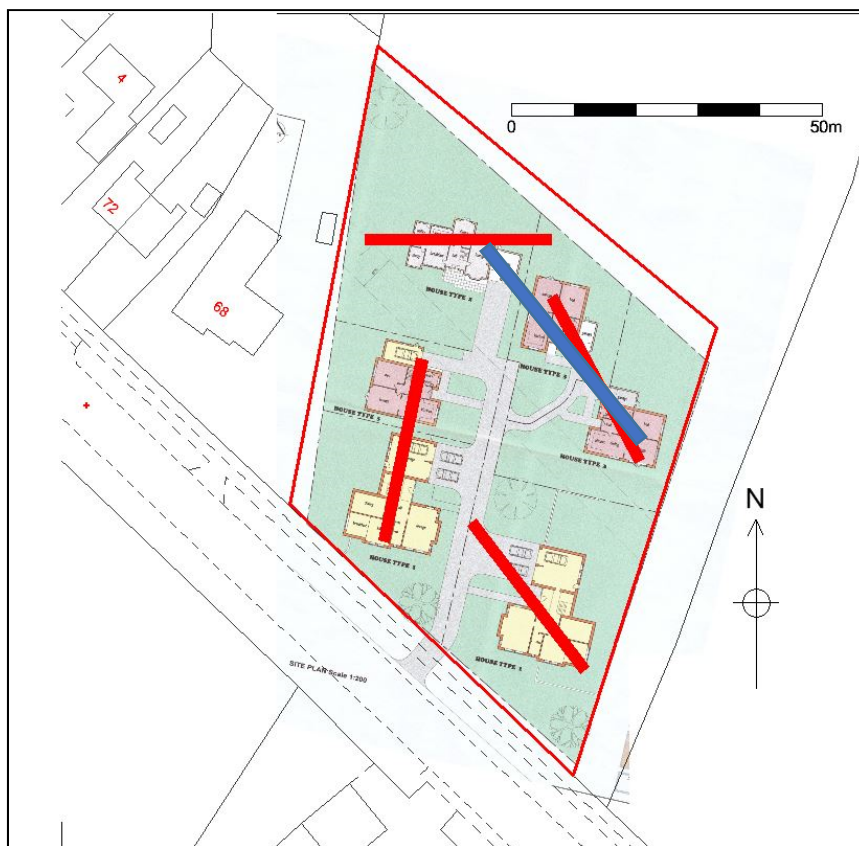


Figure 4: Proposed trenching plan, with revised trench in blue



Figure 5: Constraints in north-east area of site.

## Results

The sequence of soils across the development site consisted of dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil, with very occasional well-rounded small gravels overlying a mid-grey-brown firm clay-silt subsoil with rounded pebbles less than 4cm. This overlay the natural sub-stratum of mid orange-brown clay with frequent fragmented ironstone. All soils were consistent throughout the 3 trenches. All three trenches produced a negative archaeological result.

### Trench1

Interval	0m(SW)	4m	8m	12m	16m	20m	24m	28m	30m(SE)
Ground (OD)	152m	152m	152m	152m	152m	152m	152m	152m	152m
Topsoil depth	0.13	0.20	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.08	0.13	0.16	0.16
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.10	0.11
Top of Natural	0.26	0.25	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.27
Base of Trench	0.44	0.34	0.36	0.40	0.38	0.30	0.44	0.55	0.55

Table 1: Trench 1 results



Figure 6: Trench 1 looking NW

## Trench 2

Interval	0m(NW)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	35m	40m(SE)
Ground (OD) M	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
Topsoil depth	0.10	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.13	0.10
Subsoil depth	0.10	0.18	0.10	0.16	0.19	0.18	0.16	0.13	0.13
Top of Natural	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	0.23
Base of trench	0.49	0.52	0.40	0.52	0.54	0.42	0.39	0.41	0.34

Table 2: Trench 2 results



Figure 7: Trench 2 looking NW

### Trench 3

Interval	0m(N)	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	30
Ground (OD)M	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
Topsoil depth	0.10	0.15	0.18	0.11	0.20	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.10
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.13	0.18	0.15	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.08
Top of natural	0.23	0.28	0.36	0.26	0.28	0.24	0.20	0.22	0.18
Base of trench	0.49	0.51	0.55	0.49	0.42	0.46	0.560	0.149	0.49

Table 3: Trench 3 results



Figure 8: Trench 3 looking NE

### Discussion and Conclusion

The proposed development area adjacent to 68 Leicester Road, Uppingham had some potential for archaeological remains, given its proximity to mid-late Iron Age and Romano-British features recorded during excavations to the south of Leicester Road, a number of find spots recorded on the HER and a possible ditch or track way seen on aerial photograph to the east of the development site. The site has remained in constant agricultural production at least since early edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th century. No excavation was carried out in the northeast area of the site due to above ground electrical services restricting access to that area.

There was no evidence for archaeological remains in any of the three trenches excavated, and so as such the site will not contribute towards the Regional Research Objectives.



Figure 9: General working shot

### **Archive and publication**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Oakham and Rutland Museums with accession number OAKRM:2019.18 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No 2019-110)
- 3 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD of digital photographs

### **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Richard Elwell on behalf of Architects LE1 for his co-operation with the project. Ian Reeds carried out the trial trenching for ULAS and the project was managed by Richard Buckley. The excavator was provided by Planters (Leicester) Ltd and operated by Mickey.

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