University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation at Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, Hallaton

NGR: SP 782 968

Gavin Speed

ULAS Report No 2010-158

An Archaeological Evaluation at Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, Hallaton (SP 782 968)

Gavin Speed

For: Mr Matthew Hackley

Approved by

Signed: **Date**: 08/08/2010

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ULAS Report Number 2010-158

Accession Number XA.156.2010.

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, Hallaton (SP 782 968). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development. A geophysical survey was also undertaken prior to excavation by the Hallaton Fieldwork Group which showed some ridge and furrow in the south-west corner of the site.

The evaluation identified no archaeological finds or deposits.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.156.2010.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Mr Matthew Hackley on 31st August 2010 on land to the rear of Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, Hallaton (SP 782 968).

An archaeological evaluation of the site had been requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. They requested an archaeological evaluation to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance prior to redevelopment of the land.

This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, assessing the impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological deposits identified.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The village of Hallaton lies approximately 21km to the south-east of Leicester (Fig.1). The development area lies on the west side of the village core (Fig.2), on 0.7ha of land to the rear of Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, at SP 782 968. The area to be affected by the development is currently under pasture. The land slopes down from north to south, lying at a height of *c*.110m OD at the north-end to *c*.105m OD at the south-end. The underlying geology consisted of Mudstone and Upper Liassic Clay.

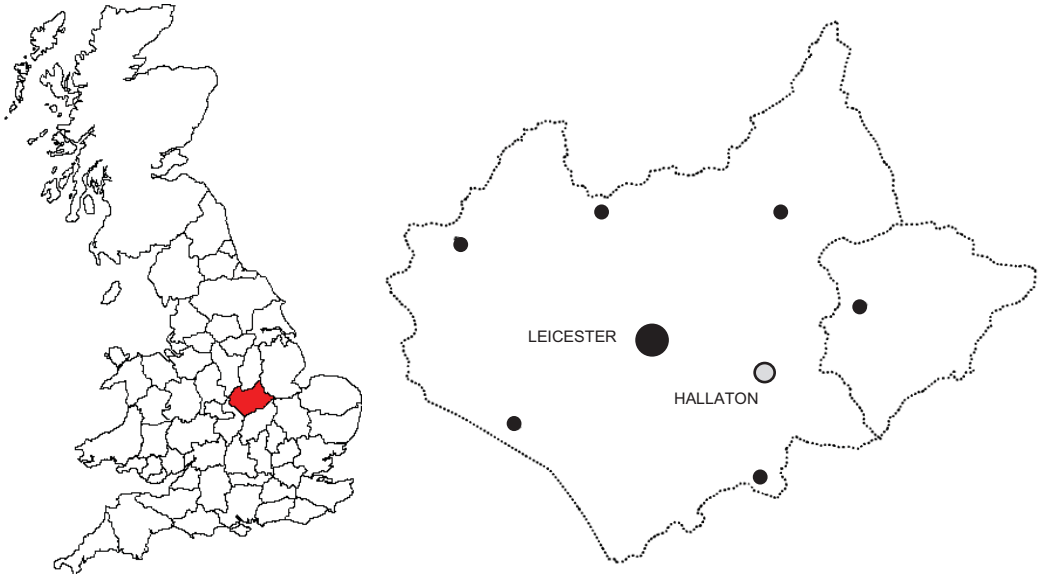

Figure 1 Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire

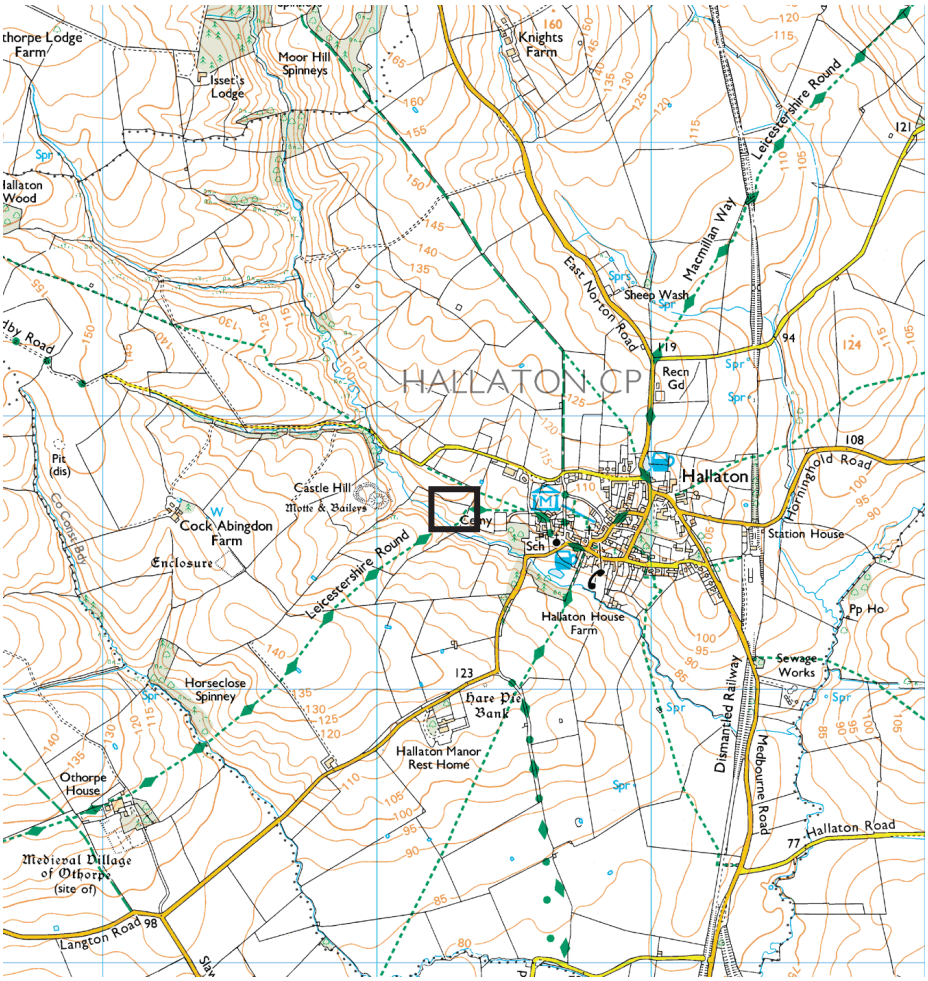

Figure 2: Site Location. 1:25000

3. Archaeological Background

The development area lies within a rich archaeological landscape, with settlement evidence of prehistoric and Roman date known from earlier archaeological investigations within and surrounding the village (George 2004: 5; Priest 2004). The site lies close to Hallaton Castle, a mounded earthwork and Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Geophysical Survey

A Geophysical survey was carried out on 28th September 2010by the Hallaton Field Work Group with the landowners permission. The survey was conducted using a Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array vertical component fluxgate gradiometer. The north-east area of the site contained metal fencing and geophysical survey was not able to be carried out in this areas.

Methodology

The area was divided into 30m grid squares set out manually by tape measure and tied in by measurement to the field boundaries. The instruments were carried at a steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.125m along the traverses, giving a total of 7200 measurements per grid. To ensure accuracy in walking HFWG has developed a system using flags and pegs. A 'flagger' stands at each end of the traverse holding a flag at the point on the tape at which the operator is aiming. When the operator reaches the flag the return traverse is commenced from a point on the tape that the 'flagger' has marked with a peg.

The Bartington fluxgate gradiometer has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5 – 1.0m. This would be increased if strongly magnetic objects were buried on the site. Readings are logged consecutively into the data logger, which in turn is regularly downloaded onto a portable computer on site. The data was processed using Geoplot 3.00s software. The processed data is presented in the form of a greyscale plot (scale +3nT to -3nT black-white). These have been scaled rotated and geo-rectified for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping using Turbocad.

Survey Results

Ridge and furrow running approximately north - south parallel with the field boundaries is visible in the south-west corner of the site. Apart from this no other obvious features were identified (Fig. 3).

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify possible areas of archaeological potential liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the location, extent, date, and significance of any archaeological deposits located.
- To define the quality and state of preservation of these deposits.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area. This information would allow the County Archaeologist to assess the potential impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological remains.

The objective is to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits in order that an appropriate mitigation strategy may be adopted for remains that may be affected by the development proposals.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken. The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching over the proposed horse gallop (see Appendix II), consisting of nine 10m long trenches.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical digger equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or 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. The trenches were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

6. Results

Nine trenches were excavated (Fig.3), all measured 10 metres in length. No archaeological finds or deposits were located within them. The topsoil consisted of a dark grey-brown clayey-silt with occasional angular pebbles approximately *c.*0.2m thick. The subsoil was yellow-brown silty-clay, with occasional angular pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks approximately 0.1-0.15m thick. The natural substratum was reached *c.*0.3-0.4m below current ground level. This consisted of a yellow-brown clay mixed with patches of angular stones and chalk. A selection of the photographed trenches are included in Appendix I.

Figure 3: Trench location plan overlaid on the geophysics survey

7. Conclusion

Despite lying within an archaeological rich area, the evaluation revealed no archaeological evidence. Traces of ridge and furrow were noted orientated N-S consistent with the results of the geophysical survey indicating that this field was ploughed farmland prior to being used as pasture in more recent times.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.156.2010.

The archive contains:

- 9 trench recording sheets
- 1 photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives
- Survey plans
- Unbound copy & CD of this report

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: http://oasis.ac.uk/

ID	**OASIS entry summary**
Project Name	Castle View Forge, Goadby Road, Hallaton
Summary	No archaeological finds or features
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed
Previous/Future work	Previous: none. / Future: none.
Current Land Use (2010)	Paddock
Development Type	Commercial
Reason for Investigation	PPS15
Position in the Planning Process	as a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 782 968
Start/end dates of field work	31/08/2010
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Study Area	0.7ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: XA.156.2010. OASIS form ID: universi1-81897

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

10. Bibliography

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11. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Gavin Speed, and Tim Higgins. Vicki Score managed the project. Thanks to Matthew Mackley for his help during the project and to the Hallaton Field Work Group for undertaking the geophysical survey.

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01/09/2010

Appendix I: Selected archive photographs

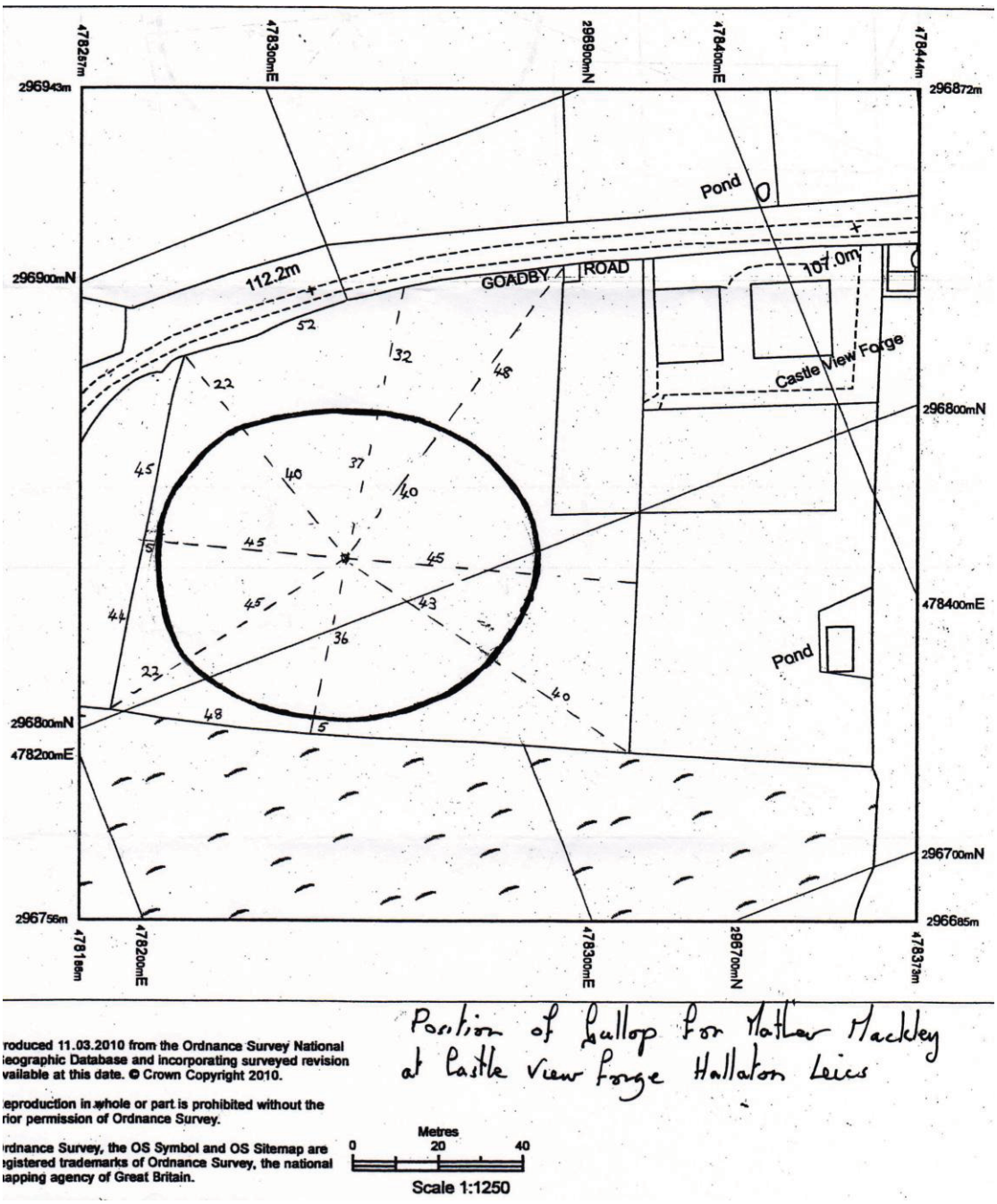
Figure 4: Trench 1 looking south, 2m x1m scale

Figure 5: Trench 4 looking south-west, 2m x1m scale

Figure 6: Trench 5 Looking south-west, 2m x1m scale

Figure 7: Trench 8 looking north-east, 2m x1m scale

Appendix II: Plan of proposed development



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