



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Rose & Crown, Main Street,
Tilton on the Hill,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 7428 0564

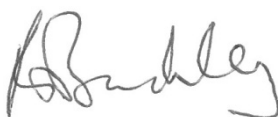
Gavin Speed

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Rose & Crown, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill
(SK 7428 0564)**

Gavin Speed

For: Mr F. Heritage

Approved by



Signed

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Rose & Crown, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire.

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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 Rose & Crown, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (SK 7428 0564). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development.

The evaluation revealed limited archaeological evidence, consisting of an undated pit, gully, and post-hole; along with a 19th-century pit within three of the six trenches.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.174.2010.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Mr F. Heritage on 28th and 29th September 2010 on land to the rear of Rose & Crown public house, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (SK 7428 0564).

As a result of a pre-planning enquiry, an archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. The work was required in order to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact upon them from future development proposals.

This report presents the results of the trial trenching, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Tilton on the Hill lies in the Harborough District of Leicestershire, approximately 9.5 miles east of Leicester City centre (Figure 1). The site is located at the western side of Main Street, Tilton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, LE7 9LF, (NGR: SK 742 057), around 100m west of St. Peter's Church. The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 156 (Leicester) shows that the geology of the site would comprise glacial sands and gravel. The site covers approximately 0.21ha and lies at a height of around 212m above OD. The site consists of a roughly asphalted pub car park, a grassed-over beer garden, a small vegetable patch and two square terraced areas, used for outdoor games. The site falls to the south from the entrance at Main Street

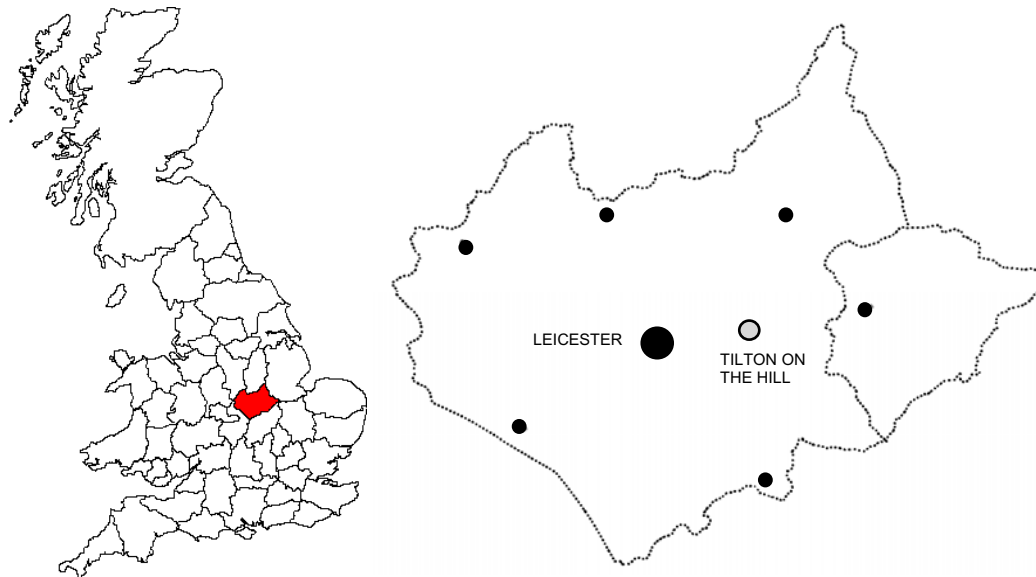


Figure 1 Site location plan within the UK and county of Leicestershire

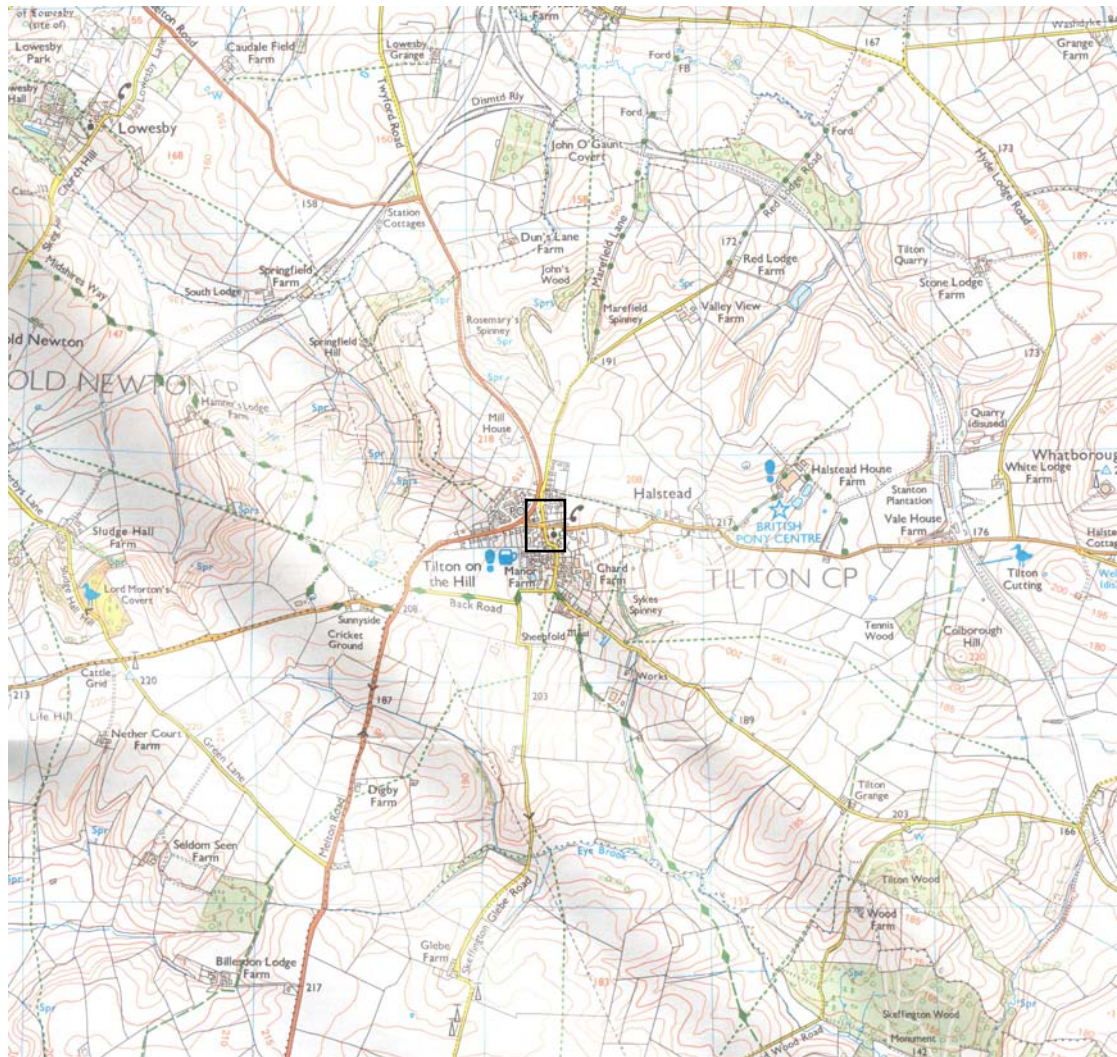


Figure 2: Site Location.

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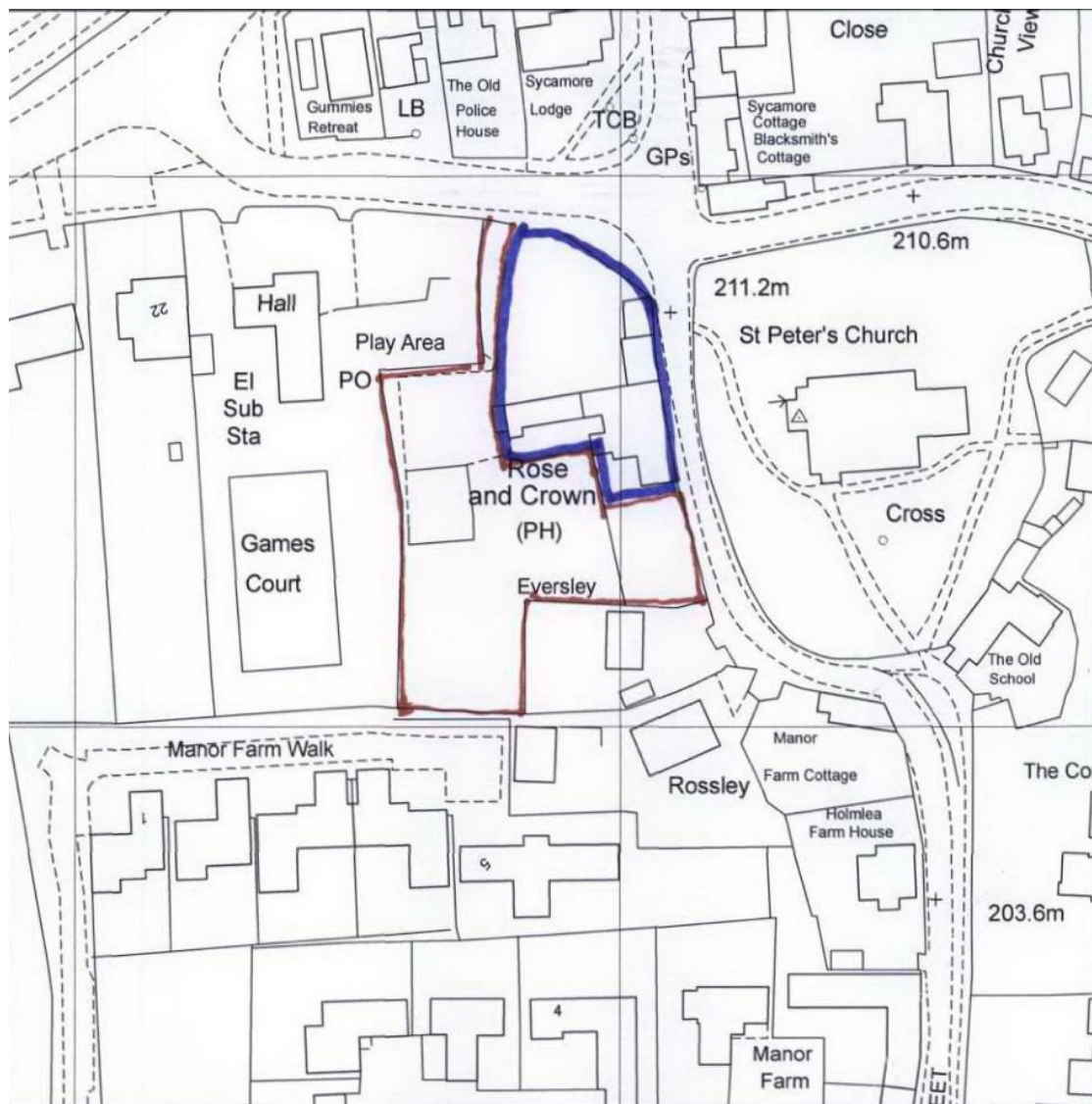


Figure 3: Figure 4: Location of assessment area (red line). Scale 1: 1250.
Plan provided by developer

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The place-name 'Tilton' is of Saxon origin and is likely to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon for 'Farmstead or village of a man called Tila' (Huny 2010: 4). The Domesday Book of 1086 lists the land in Tilton as belonging to the King, who owned 2 carucates of land, 4 acres of meadow and 5 acres of woodland; 'Hugh' who held 1 carucates of land from the Bishop of York and Robert Despenser who held 3 carucates of land (the carucate was based on the area a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season) (*ibid*: 4). Prior to the Conquest the land belonged to Almaer and Gytha (*ibid*: 4).. The village lay within the ancient hundred of East Goscote and the parish once included the hamlets of Whatborough, Halstead and Marefield. The manor was owned by various families throughout the medieval period and was sold by the Digby family, said to be the descendants of the aforementioned Almaer to the Harvey family in 1624. The Harvey family sold it on to Bartholomew Clarke in 1742 (*ibid*: 4)..

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire & Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological remains located within the assessment area itself (*ibid*: 4). However, the site is within the medieval core of the village (MLE5980) and within the Conservation Area. It lies adjacent to the Rose & Crown Public House (MLE14185), a 17th-century building with an earlier core and around 100m west of the late 12th-century Church of St. Peter (MLE14175). The earliest available map of the village is the 1839 tithe map. This shows the Rose & Crown pub with various small plots to the rear. The award, which accompanies the tithe map, records that the land belonged to Thomas Freer and the occupier was Thomas Needham. The plots numbers 42 and 43 are simply referred to as 'Rose & Crown public house, yards and gardens'. A small L-shaped building lies to the west of the pub, which does not appear on any subsequent maps of the village (*ibid*: 6).

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.

The objective was to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which may be present in order that an informed planning decision can be taken.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken. The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested the examination of a minimum sample of approximately 4% of the site area of 0.21 ha to be examined by trial trenches prior to determination of any planning application to develop the site (see Appendix II). Six trenches with a total area of *c.*85m² were located to cover the areas of the development (Figure 5).

The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator 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 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. The trenches were backfilled and levelled 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

Archaeological finds and features were identified in Trenches 3, 5, and 6; Trenches 1, 2, and 4 contained no archaeological evidence.

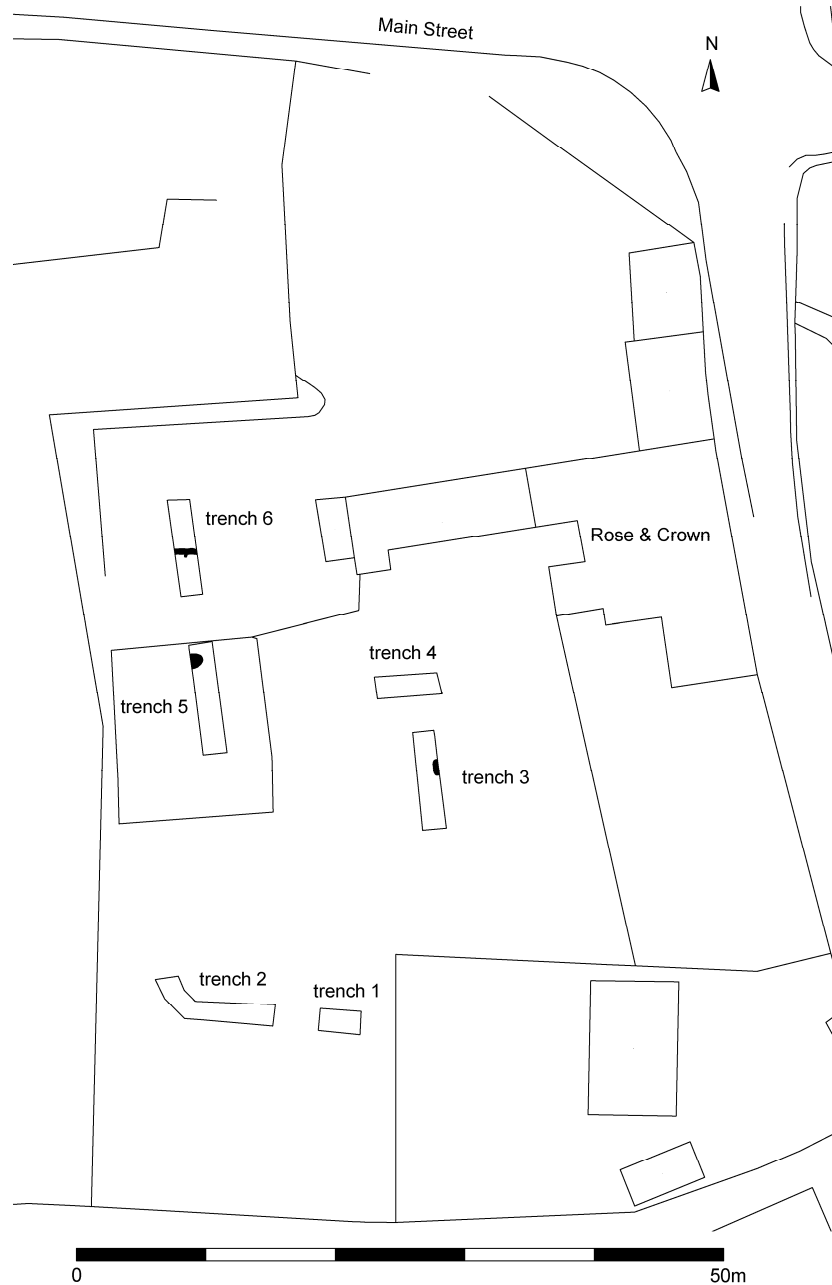


Figure 5: Trench location plan, archaeological features shaded.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the southern-end of the development site, and was orientated east-west (Figure 5 & 6). The surface of a petanque pitch was removed, under which lay 0.6m of hardcore for the pitch (cobbles and gravel). This overlay a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.15m thick. The natural

substratum was reached *c.*0.9m below current ground level (208.19m O.D.). This consisted of yellow-orange sands and gravels. No archaeological finds or deposits were located within this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located at the southern-end of the development site, and was orientated east-west (Figure 5 & 6). The surface of a petanque pitch was removed, under which lay topsoil (1) consisting of a dark grey-brown sandy-clay approximately *c.*0.4m thick. This overlay a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.15m thick. The natural substratum was reached *c.*0.7-0.9m below current ground level (208.55m O.D.). This consisted of yellow-orange sands and gravels. No archaeological finds or deposits were located within this trench.



Figure 6: Trench 1 (left) and Trench 2 (right)

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the beer garden in the central part of the site, and was orientated north-south (Figure 5 & 9). The topsoil (1) consisted of a dark grey-brown sandy-clay approximately *c.*0.45m thick. A sherd of pottery dated to the 17th or 18th century was recovered from this. This overlay a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.2m thick. Fragments of animal bone (including sheep and cattle) were recovered from this. The natural substratum was reached *c.*0.65m below current ground level (209.27m O.D.). This consisted of yellow-orange sands and gravels. An oval-shaped pit [7] was located on the eastern edge of the trench (Figure 7 & 8). This had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a dark

grey-brown silty-clay (8). Within this was a fragment of a small cup or bowl vase. This was a Chinese hard paste porcelain with hand painted under glaze dating to the late 18th to mid 19th century. Also recovered was a clay pipe stem, a brick fragment, and fragments of a diamond-shaped window pane, probably from the 18th century. A piece of lead – probably from a window frame, and further 19th- or 20th-century glass was also recovered along with an iron hook. A fragment of an animal bone (domestic fowl?) was also recovered.

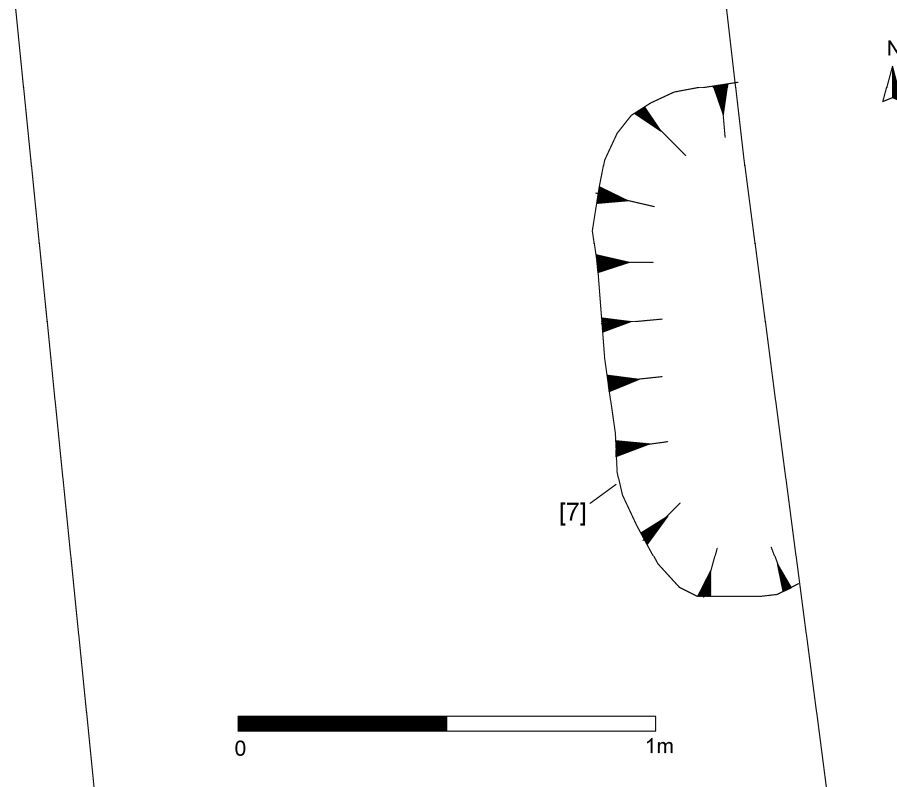


Figure 7: Plan of pit [7] within Trench 3.

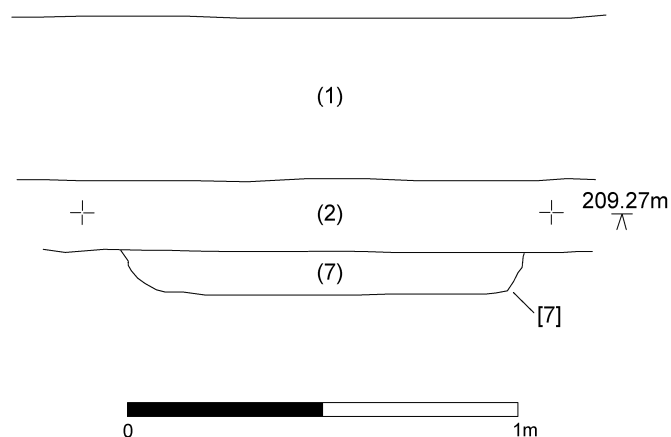


Figure 8: Pit [7] section within Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the beer garden in the central part of the site, and was orientated east-east (Figure 5 & 9). The topsoil (1) consisted of a dark grey-brown sandy-clay approximately c.0.4m thick. This overlay a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.15m thick. The natural substratum was reached c.0.55-0.7m below current ground level (209.56m O.D.). This consisted of a yellow-orange sands and gravels. No archaeological finds or deposits were located within this trench.



Figure 9: Trench 3 (left) and Trench 4 (right)

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located over a petanque pitch in the central-west area of the site, and was orientated north-south (Figure 5 & 14). After removal of the thin petanque pitch surface, there was a layer of modern hardcore and rubbish 0.8m thick. This overlay a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.2m thick. The natural substratum was reached c.0.75m below current ground level (209.5m O.D.). This consisted of yellow-orange sands and gravels. Recent building material and rubbish (including many beer bottles!) were located at the south-end of the trench lying immediately under the make-up for the petanque pitch. An oval pit [3] was located at the north-end of the trench (Figure 10, 11 & 15). This had concave sides and a flattish base. It contained a single deposit of mid- grey silty-clay. A fragment of animal bone were recovered from this.

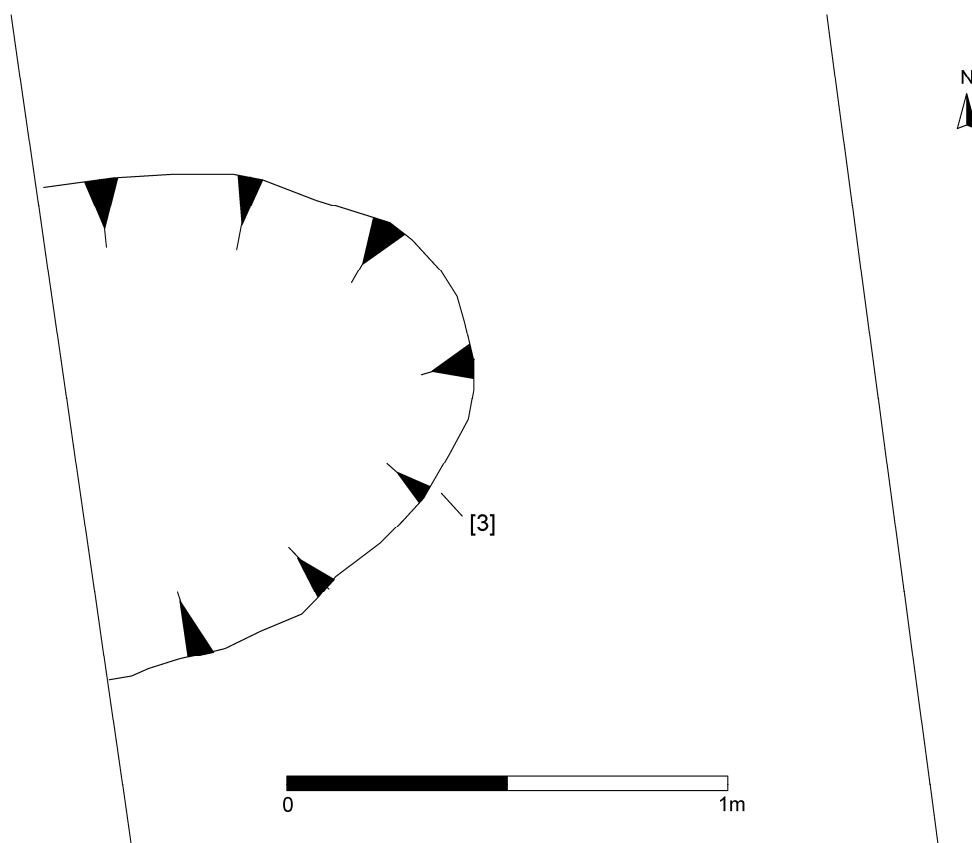


Figure 10: Plan of pit [3] within Trench 5.

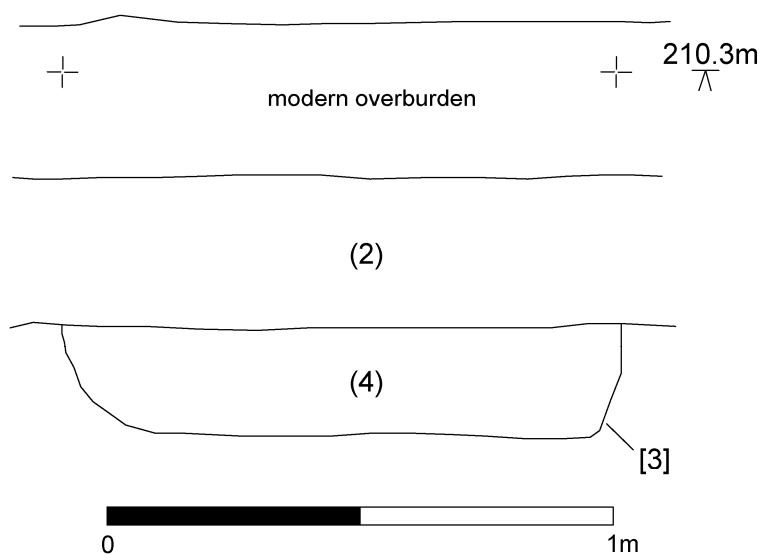


Figure 11: Section of pit [3] within Trench 5.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located over a graveled area in the central-west area of the site, and was orientated north-south (Figure 5 & 14). After removal of modern gravels and hardcore (0.3m thick), there was a thin subsoil (2) consisting of yellow-brown sandy-clay, approximately 0.3m thick. The natural substratum was reached *c.*0.65m below current ground level (209.5m O.D.). This consisted of yellow-orange sands and gravels. A small linear gully [5] orientated east-west was located centrally within the trench (Figure 12, 13, & 15). This measured 0.4m in width and 0.05m in depth, it had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single deposit of a firmly compacted mid-grey-brown silt-clay (6). Immediately to the south was a small posthole [10]. This was circular, measuring 0.1m diameter and 0.04m deep, it had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a mid grey-brown silty-clay. No finds were recovered from either feature.

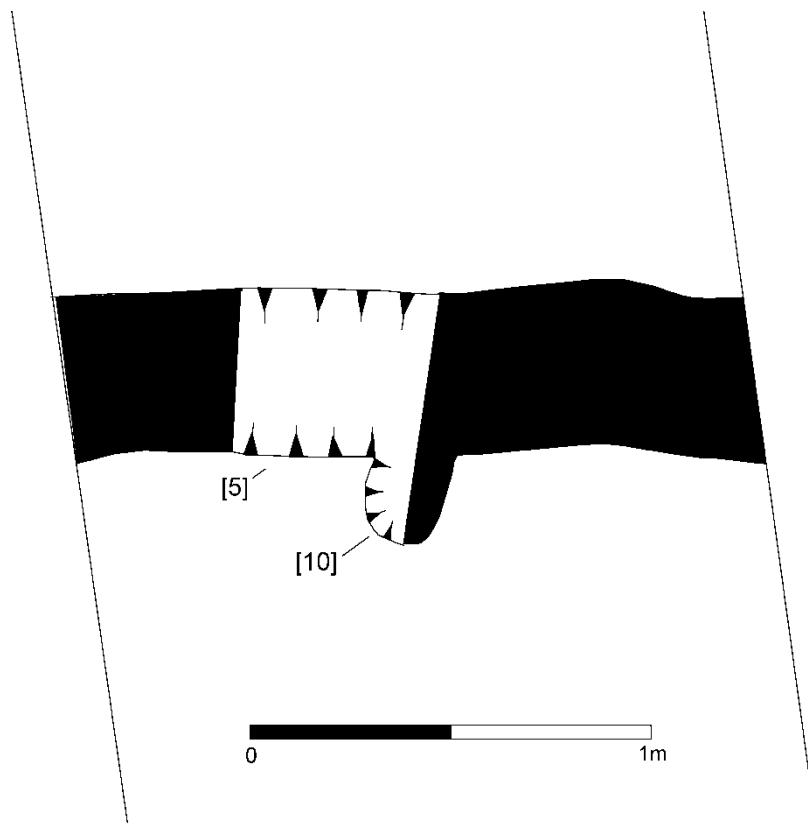


Figure 12: Plan of gully [5] and posthole [10] in Trench 6.

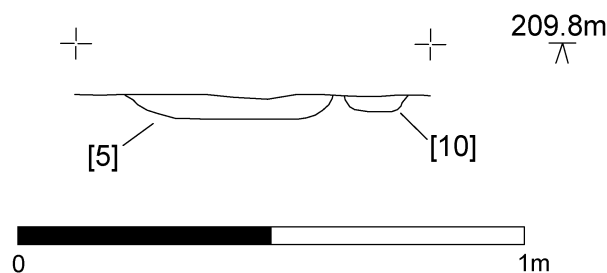


Figure 13: Section of gully [5] and posthole [10] in Trench 6.



Figure 14: Trench 5 (left), Trench 6 (right)



Figure 15: Pit [3] (left), and gully [10] (right)

7. Conclusion

The evaluation revealed limited archaeological evidence – consisting of three undated archaeological features, and a 19th-century pit within three trenches. Three further trenches revealed no archaeological finds or deposits.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, accession no. XA.174.2010.

The archive contains:

- 6 trench recording sheets
- 1 context summary record
- 1 photographic recording sheet
- Scaled drawings showing plans and sections of archaeological features with context descriptions
- 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 | Rose & Crown, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire |
| Summary | University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of Rose & Crown, Main Street, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire (SK 7428 0564). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation revealed limited archaeological evidence, consisting of an undated pit and gully, and a further 19th century pit within three of the six trenches. |
| Project Type | Evaluation |
| Project Manager | Richard Buckley |
| Project Supervisor | Gavin Speed |
| Previous/Future work | Previous: none. / Future: uncertain |
| Current Land Use | Pub beer garden, car park, petanque pitch |
| Development Type | Residential |
| Reason for Investigation | PPS15 |
| Position in the Planning Process | Pre-application |
| Site Co ordinates | SK 7428 0564 |
| Start/end dates of field work | 28/09/2010 – 29/09/2010 |
| Archive Recipient | Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services |
| Study Area | 0.21ha |
| Associated project reference codes | Museum accession ID: XA.174.2010. OASIS form ID: universi1-83552 |

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.

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11. Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was carried out by Gavin Speed, and Harriet Jacklin. Richard Buckley managed the project.

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01/10/2010

Appendix I: Finds Report

By Deborah Sawday

The pottery, three sherds, weighing 48 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999). These and the miscellaneous finds are listed below (Table 1).

Of note was a fragment of Chinese hard paste porcelain dated from the late 18th to the 19th centuries. This material was generally made for export to the West, and great quantities of this kind of pottery were exported to the United Kingdom between the late 18th and the mid 19th century. Also of interest were fragments of diamond shaped window pane and lead window came which are possibly all from the same window.

The date of the pottery and of the other finds suggests that they may be associated with the adjacent Rose and Crown Public House rather than any possibly earlier buildings in the plots to the rear.

Table 1: The pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) and miscellaneous finds by context.

| Context | Fabric/Ware | No s | Grams | Comments |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------|---|
| POT | | | | |
| Tr 3 (1) | EA2 – Earthenware 2 | 2 | 45 | Wheel thrown, iron rich slip & brown glaze internally, red bodied, 17th/18th C+. |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | PO – Porcelain | 1 | 3 | Fragment of small cup or bowl base with foot ring. Chinese hard paste porcelain, hand painted blue under glaze, late 18th – mid 19th C. |
| CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL | | | | |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | EA – Earthenware | 1 | 11 | Brick fragment – possibly post medieval |
| CLAY PIPE | | | | |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | China Clay | 2 | | Tobacco pipe stems |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | Glass | 5 | | Fragments of diamond shaped window panes, ?18th C. |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | Glass | 7 | | Fragments of clear flat glass, some possibly 19th or 20th C. |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | Lead | 2 | 29 | Window came – probably associated with shaped glass above, ?18th C. |
| Tr 3 [7] (8) | Iron | 1 | 26 | Hook |

Bibliography

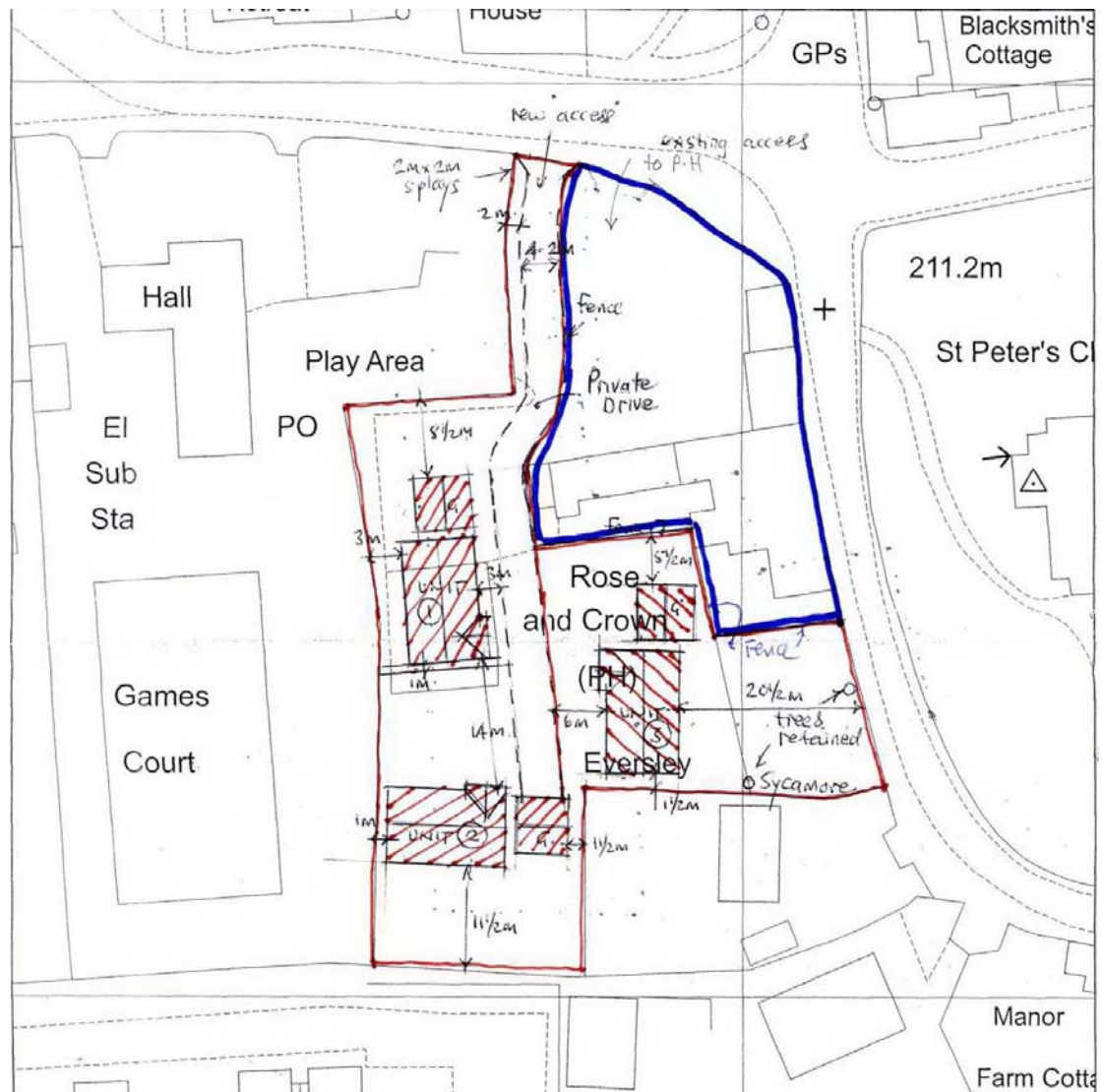
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Animal bones identified by Jennifer Browning

Table 2: Animal bones

| Context | Description | Condition |
|---------|---|---|
| 2 | 1 x large mammal cervical vertebra; | Good but with fresh breaks |
| 2 | 1 x sheep/goat lower 3rd molar (in wear); | Good but with fresh break |
| 2 | 1 x cattle tibia (proximal unfused) | Good but with fresh break |
| 2 | 1 x proximal cattle femur (proximal fused) – very large | Good but with fresh break |
| 4 | 1 x medium mammal radius shaft fragment | Good but with fresh break (3 fragments) |
| 8 | 1 x juvenile tibio-tarsus (?domestic fowl) | Good |

Appendix II: Plan of proposed development



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