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# Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



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March 2014



**Hamilton Lane,  
Hamilton, Leicestershire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

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# Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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# **Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a housing development on land at Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire, centred on NGR 464245 306939.

The programme comprised the excavation of four trenches targeted over anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey. The fieldwork took place between Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

No features of archaeological significance were observed, the geophysical anomalies most likely being the result of plough scarring and variations in subsoil depth.

The archive will be deposited with Leicester Museums in due course.



# **Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Acknowledgements**

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Paul Gajos in this regard. The excavation was monitored by Hannah Sydall on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council.

Fieldwork was carried out by Sam Fairhead with the assistance of Charlotte Burton. The report was compiled by Sam Fairhead with illustrations by Alex Sperr.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



# Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a housing development on land at Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire, centred on NGR 464245 306939 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 Four trenches were excavated, targeted over anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey (MOLA 2014), and interpreted as three possible ring ditches and one linear ditch (**Figure 1**).

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on pasture land immediately west of Hamilton Lane and is bordered to the north and west by pasture fields, and to the south by land under new development.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is mudstone of the Blue Lias formation, overlain by Oadby Member Diamicton deposits (BGS online). The Site lies at 95m aOD.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2014).
- 2.1.2 There are two Scheduled monuments within the vicinity of the Site, the deserted medieval village of Hamilton approximately 200m to the north, and a Roman villa site approximately 450m to the north-east.
- 2.1.3 Roman and medieval finds have been recorded in fields to the east of the Site, but no finds have been recorded within the Site itself.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:





- *to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;*
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;*
- *to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to aid the production of a mitigation strategy for the Site (if necessary).*

### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches (**Figure 1**). The trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m). All four trenches were 50m in length and targeted geophysical anomalies.
- 3.2.2 The location of all trenches were scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services.
- 3.2.3 Topsoil or overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology.
- 3.2.4 All trenches were hand-cleaned (where necessary) to clarify the nature of any archaeological remains. No archaeology was uncovered.
- 3.2.5 All excavation and recording was undertaken by qualified archaeologists employed by Wessex Archaeology. All trenches were recorded, and where necessary excavated in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008). All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2014).

### **3.3 Monitoring**

- 3.3.1 The excavation was monitored by Hannah Sydall on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council.

### **3.4 Recording**

- 3.4.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).
- 3.4.2 All trenches were located in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 3.4.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to OD, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.
- 3.4.4 Photographs were taken of archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images (at least 10 megapixel) supplement the photographic record.



## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The topsoil across the Site was a dark greyish-brown clayey silt with moderate coarse gravel inclusions. In the western trenches, **Trenches 1 and 2, (Plates 1, 2 and 3)** the topsoil was typically 0.35m in depth, directly overlying the natural which was a light orangey-grey sandy clay with rare coarse gravel inclusions. In the eastern trenches, **Trenches 3 and 4, (Plates 4, 5 and 6)** the topsoil was shallower, typically 0.16m deep, overlying a light greyish-brown clayey silt subsoil. This subsoil was present on average from 0.16m-0.36m below ground level (bgl). The natural in these trenches was a mid reddish-orange sandy clay.

### **4.2 Summary**

4.2.1 No features of archaeological interest were revealed by the evaluation.

4.2.2 In **Trenches 1 and 2** the geophysical anomalies appear to be the result of plough scarring and slight variations in the natural geology (**Plate 1**). In **Trenches 3 and 4** the geophysical anomalies may be explained by areas of deeper than average subsoil (**Plate 5**).

## **5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered from the Site.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Summary**

6.1.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed, geophysical anomalies were the result of natural features and plough scarring.

## **7 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **7.1 Museum**

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, [ under the accession code TBA].

### **7.2 Archive**

7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Leicester Museum,



and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

### **7.3 Discard policy**

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

### **7.4 Security Copy**

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



## 8 REFERENCES

### 8.1 Bibliography

Bibliographic references

ADS, 2013, Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

CgMs, 2014, A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, Land at Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire

English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation, Reading

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), 2014, Archaeological Geophysical Survey at Hamilton Lane, Hamilton, Leicester. Report No.14/15

Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), 1993, Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA), 1995, Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

### 8.2 Consulted online sources

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

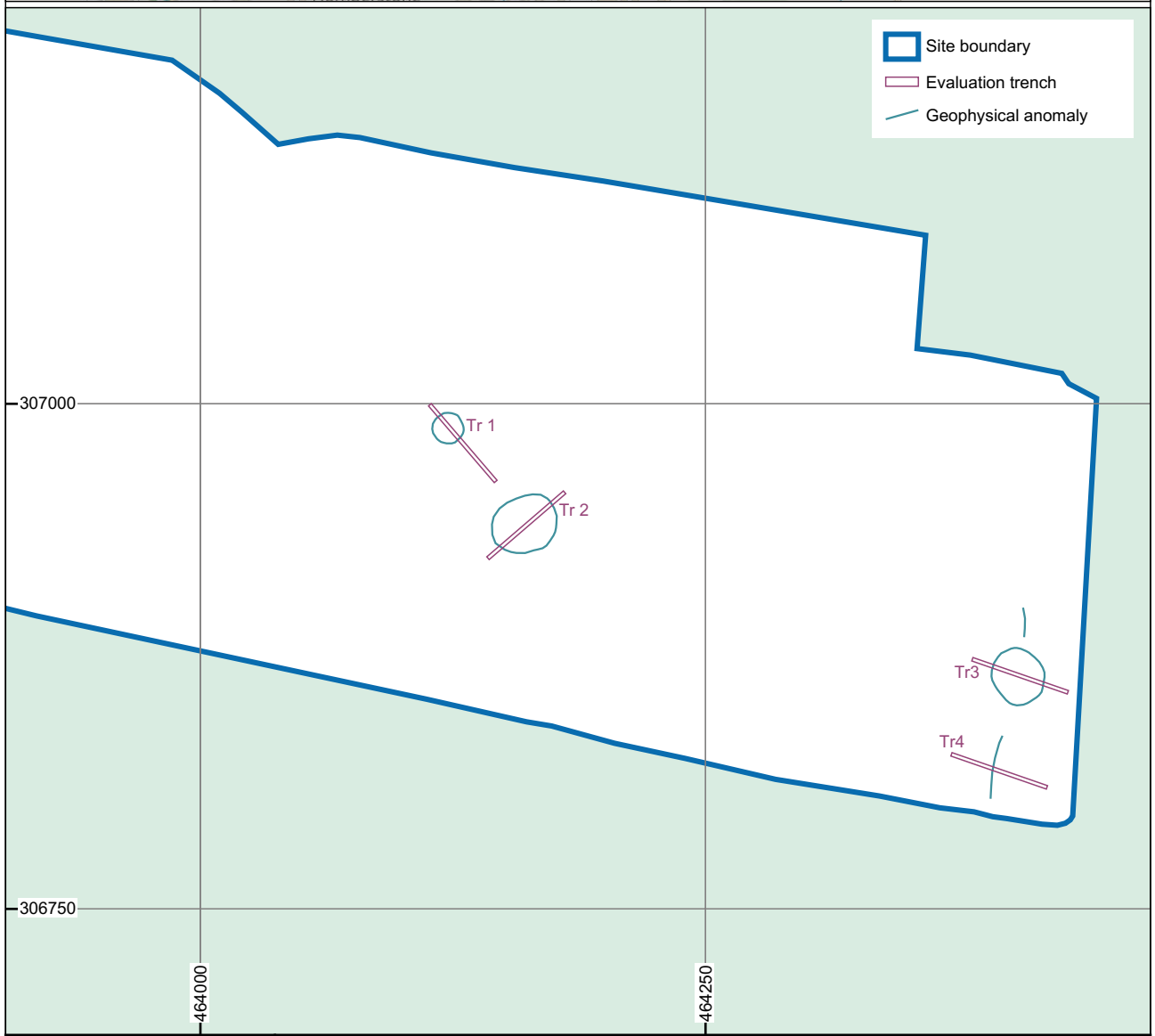
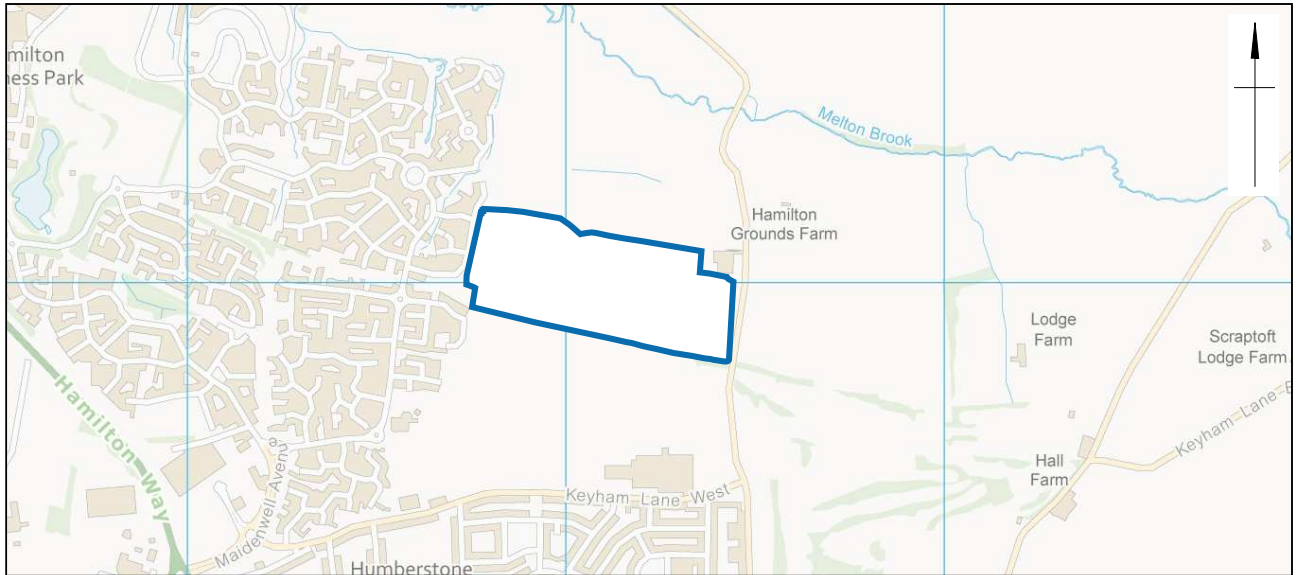
	<b>Trench 1</b>	<b>Max depth: 0.44m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
<b>101</b>	Topsoil, dark greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0-0.4m
<b>102</b>	Natural, light orangey-grey sandy clay, rare coarse gravel inclusions	0.4m+


	<b>Trench 2</b>	<b>Max depth: 0.46m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
<b>201</b>	Topsoil, dark greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0-0.32m
<b>202</b>	Natural, light orangey-grey sandy clay, rare coarse gravel inclusions	0.32m+

	<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Max depth: 0.4m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
<b>301</b>	Topsoil, dark greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0-0.16m
<b>302</b>	Subsoil, light greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0.16-0.36m
<b>303</b>	Natural, mid reddish-orange sandy clay, rare coarse gravel inclusions	0.36m+

	<b>Trench 4</b>	<b>Max depth: 0.39m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
<b>401</b>	Topsoil, dark greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0-0.16m
<b>402</b>	Subsoil, light greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate coarse gravel inclusions	0.16-0.36m
<b>403</b>	Natural, mid reddish-orange sandy clay, rare coarse gravel inclusions	0.36m+

### 9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form



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	Scale:	Main graphic - 1: 3000 @ A4	Illustrator:	AS
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Site location and plan of trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: Plough scarring in **Trench 1**



Plate 2: **Trench 1** from the southeast



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Plate 3: **Trench 2** from the southwest



Plate 4: **Trench 3** from the east

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Plate 5: North facing representative section in **Trench 3**



Plate 6: **Trench 4** from the southeast

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