



making sense of heritage

Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: 13/01539/FUL, 13/00688/FUL
Ref: 109230.01
May 2015



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**Dunton Road, Broughton Astley,
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (NGR 453611 292090). Planning consent has been granted for residential development (Harborough District Council Reference 13/01539/FUL – revised scheme of planning application 13/00688/FUL). A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs (2015) and submitted to Teresa Hawtin, of Leicester Country Council, for approval, with the subsequent archaeological evaluation fulfilling the conditions attached to the planning consent.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Broughton Astley. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural, which has had little archaeological impact on the Site. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the southeast of the Site.

The archive of the archaeological evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **109230**. It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum under accession number **X.A50.2015**. An OASIS form, ID number **wessexar1-211090** has been completed and will be finally submitted at the time of deposition.



Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd., and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Chris Harrison in this regard. The assistance of Teresa Hawtin Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council is also acknowledged. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. Fieldwork was directed by Ashley Tuck, and undertaken by Ashley Tuck and Emma Carter. This report was written by Ashley Tuck, with illustrations by Alix Sperr.



Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 453611 292090; **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning consent for residential development been granted subject to a number of conditions (Harborough District Council Reference 13/01539/FUL – revised scheme of planning application 13/00688/FUL). Conditions 26 and 27 refer to archaeology and this evaluation has been designed to fulfil those conditions.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CgMs (2015) and submitted to Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicester Country Council (LCC), for approval. All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (English Heritage 2006), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a and 2014b) and in accordance with CIfA Codes of Conduct (2014c).

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located in a paddock to the northeast of Dunton Road. The Site is composed of a single field with a northeast to southwest aligned trackway crossing the Site. To the southwest the boundary borders Dunton Road. To the southeast lies the modern housing development of Fretter Close. The northwest border of the Site is the former route of the Midlands Railway, and to the northeast is pasture.

1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The solid geology of the Site belongs to the Mercian Mudstone group (www.bgs.ac.uk). Superficial deposits of Thrussington Member Diamicton are also recorded.

1.4 Topography

- 1.4.1 The Site rises gently from the southwest to the northeast, and lies between 80m and 90m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background of the Site which was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015).

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 To the south of the village, archaeological evaluations have identified Iron Age sites. Earlier prehistoric and Roman findspots exist in the general area.

2.3 Saxon and Medieval

2.3.1 Broughton Astley consisted of three Danish or Saxon communities in 900AD named Brocton, Sutton and Thorpe. In 1086 the village housed 34 families centred 1.2km northwest of the Site. The name Astley derives from Thomas de Estle who held the manor in 1220. Slight ridge and furrow earthworks survive in the southeast of the Site, suggesting that the Site lay outside of the settlement area and within the agricultural hinterland of Broughton Astley.

2.4 Post-medieval

2.4.1 By 1800 a thriving hosiery industry operated in the area. The Site lies between the disused Midland Railway to the northwest and a former factory site, now a housing estate, to the southeast.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aims of the project are:

- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for archaeological mitigation; and,*
- *to make available the results of the work.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 Detailed methodology for the work can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015). Wessex Archaeology procedures conform to industry best practice, as outlined in the standards and guidance documentation issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-c) and the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC 2001). The methodology conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.



4.1.2 Two 50m long trial trenches and three 30m long trenches were excavated (**Figure 1**).

4.2 Research framework

4.2.1 The programme of archaeological investigation will be conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by '*East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment*' (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands '*The Archaeology of the East Midlands*' edited by N. Cooper (2006).

4.2.2 The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's '*Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage* (SHAPE)' first published in 2008.

4.3 Machine excavation

4.3.1 Topsoil was removed using an 180° mechanical excavator 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.

4.4 Hand excavation

4.4.1 All possible features were investigated by hand. No genuine archaeological features were encountered.

4.5 Recording

4.5.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.

4.5.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.

4.5.3 A photographic record was maintained using digital images. 35mm monochrome film equipment was available but was not required due to the negative results of the evaluation.

4.6 Aims and objectives

4.6.1 The general aim of the programme of archaeological works was to evaluate the potential for archaeological features within the development Site and to inform the need for further archaeological mitigation.

4.6.2 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:



- to provide sufficient information regarding the character, origin, date, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains;
- to explore the nature of human activity at the Site and to place the Site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate;
- to assess the Site formation processes and the effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of any archaeological features and deposits;
- to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum, if appropriate; and,
- to provide information for the local HER to ensure the long term survival of the excavated data.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions contained in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Geological Substrata

5.2.1 The natural undisturbed geological substrate on Site was creamy-yellow to orangey brown clay with sandy and gravelly areas (e.g. **102**, **Plates 1-5**). The topsoil (e.g. **101**) was mid greyish brown clayey silt, with local abundances of ash, especially in **Trench 1**, possibly from bonfires ploughed in to the topsoil.

5.3 Ridge and Furrow

5.3.1 Subtle ridge and furrow earthworks exist in the southeast of the Site. **Trench 2** ran parallel to the ridge and furrow, with **Trench 3** running across the earthworks. Only three furrows were identified as archaeological features within the evaluation trenches, with the majority of furrows not visible as below-ground features. The earthworks ran northwest-southeast. To the southeast, the ridge and furrow was truncated by a sewer, and likely continued into the former factory site. In every other direction the earthworks became shallower until they were no longer visible.

5.3.2 A possible feature (**Plate 6**) was identified at the northwest end of **Trench 5**. This proved to be a geological layer of clean grey clay (**503**) overlain by a natural layer of orange sandy clay (**502**). There was also an animal burrow in **Trench 4**.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1 General

6.1.1 No archaeological finds were retained from the Site. Material of obvious 19th and 20th century date derived from manuring was present in the topsoil across the Site. No environmental samples were taken.



7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Broughton Astley. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural. Subtle ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the southeast of the Site.
- 7.1.2 Except for the poorly preserved ridge and furrow, the proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the archaeological resource.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the LCC Collection Resources Centre under accession number **X.A50.2015**.

8.2 Preparation of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the LCC Collection Resources Centre, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

8.3 Security copy

- 8.3.1 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.



9 REFERENCES

9.1 Bibliography

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- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC), 2001, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage

9.2 Online sources

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
101	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt. 20% ash. <1% coarse components. High proportion of 19 th and 20 th century finds from manuring.	0-0.3
102	Natural: light creamy yellow clay with <1% well rounded stones	0.3+

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
201	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt with 5% ash	0-0.3
202	Natural: light orangey brown sandy clay. 15% moderate sub round and angular native flint.	0.3+

Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt	0-0.3
302	Subsoil: light orange brown sandy clay with 5% sparse gravel	0.3-0.55
303	Natural: orangey yellow sandy clay with 3% sparse gravel.	0.55+

Trench 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
401	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt	0-0.2
402	Natural: light orangey brown clay with 5% well rounded cobbles at west end of trench only	0.2+

Trench 5		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
501	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt	0-0.25
502	Natural: orangey brown sandy clay. At N end, 30% gravel, also root disturbance from nearby trees.	0.25+
503	Natural: light yellow grey clay layer initially thought to be a feature. Overlain by 502.	0.25+



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-211090

Project details

Project name	Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd. (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 453611 292090). Planning consent has been granted for residential development (Harborough District Council Reference 13/01539/FUL - revised scheme of planning application 13/00688/FUL). Conditions 26 and 27 refer to archaeology and this evaluation has been designed to fulfil those conditions. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs (2015) and submitted to Teresa Hawtin, of Leicester Country Council, for approval. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Broughton Astley. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural, which has had little archaeological impact on the Site. Weak ridge and furrow earthworks survive on part of the Site. Except for the poorly preserved ridge and furrow, the proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the archaeological resource.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2015 End: 12-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	109230 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH BROUGHTON ASTLEY Dunton Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire
Postcode	LE9 6NA
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 53612 92086 52.5236447541 -1.20972363193 52 31 25 N 001 12 35 W Point



Height OD / Depth Min: 80.00m Max: 90.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Ashley Tuck
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Davidsons Developments Ltd.

Project archives

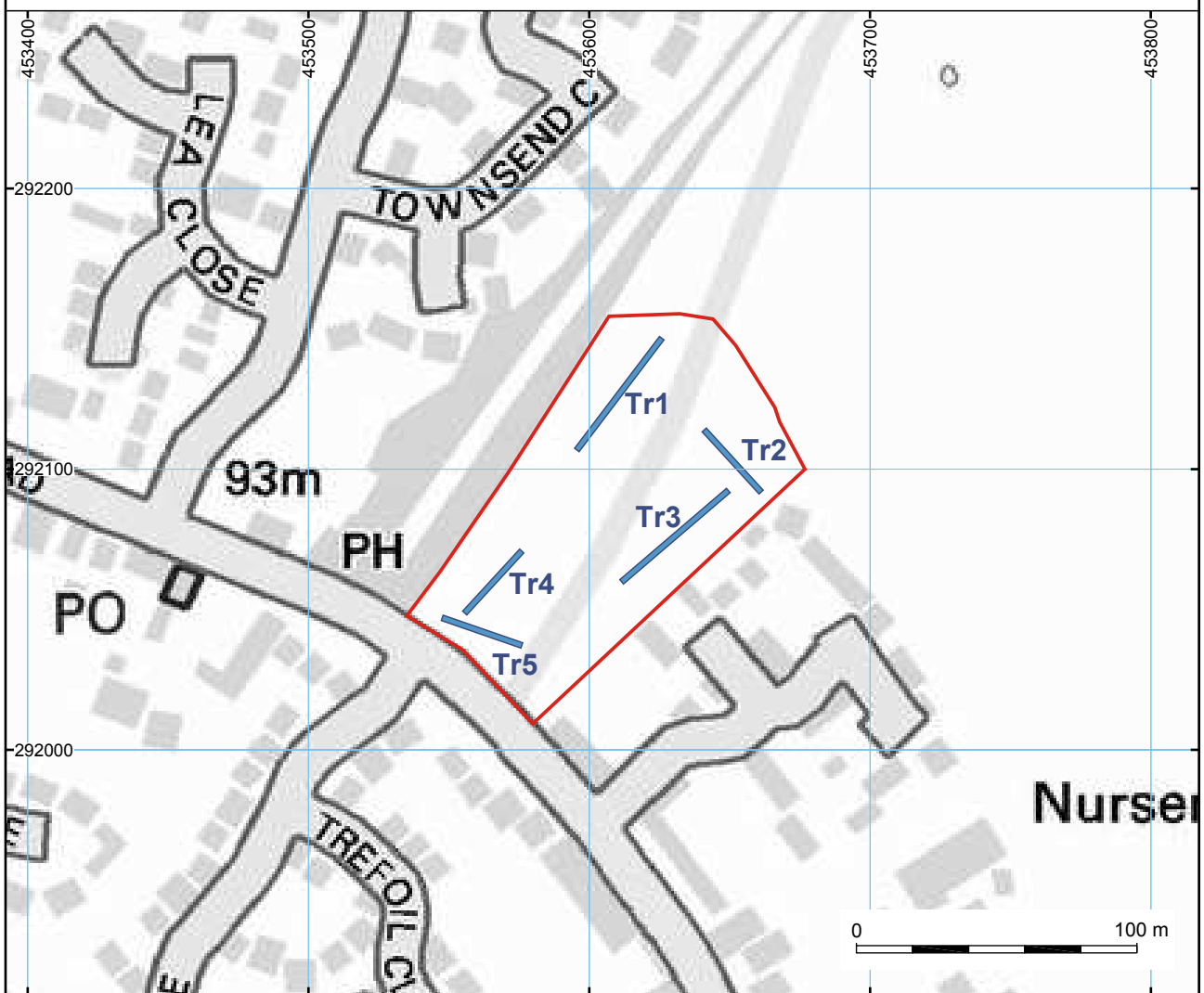
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Report"




Project bibliography 1

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Trench locations

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1 from northeast



Plate 2: Trench 2 from northwest


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Plate 3: Trench 3 from northeast



Plate 4: Trench 4 from southeast



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Plate 5: Trench 5 from southwest



Plate 6: Geological layers **502** and **503** from south

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