

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire February 2011



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Northamptonshire County Council



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS				
Draiget title	Archaeological trial tre	nch evaluation of land at Hinckley Road,		
	Stoke Golding, Leiceste	ershire, February 2011		
Short description	An archaeological tria	I trench evaluation of land at Hinckley		
	Road, Stoke Golding,	Leicestershire, was carried out to inform		
	an appeal and public in	nquiry for planning permission to develop		
	the site. There were no archaeological features or finds,			
	however, ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval field			
	cultivation were upstanding across the whole field.			
Project type	Trial trench evaluation			
Previous work	Geophysical survey			
Current land use	Pasture			
Future work	Unknown			
Monument type	Mediaval ridge and fur	cour conthurantes		
and period	Medieval huge and full	ow earthworks		
Significant finds	None			
PROJECT LOCATION	·			
County	Leicestershire			
Site address	Hinckley Road, Stoke (Golding		
Easting Northing	44055 29738			
Area (sq m/ha)	3.15 ha			
Height aOD	107m - 110m			
PROJECT CREATORS				
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology			
Broject brief originator	Teresa Hawtin, Senio	r Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire		
Project brief originator				
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting			
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby			
Project Manager	Anthony Maull			
Sponsor or funding body	Morris Homes (East) Lt	td		
PROJECT DATE				
Start date	08/02/2011			
End date	09/02/2011			
ARCHIVES	(Accession no.)	Contents		
Physical				
Paper	Museums	Site records (1 small archive box)		
Digital	X A9 2011	Client report PDF		
	Journal/monograph p	ublished or forthcoming or unpublished		
BIBLIOGRAPHY	client report (NA report)		
Title Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hinckley Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, February 2011		nch evaluation of land at Hinckley Road.		
		ershire, February 2011		
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION OF LAND AT HINCKLEY ROAD, STOKE GOLDING LEICESTERSHIRE FEBRUARY 2011

Abstract

In February 2011 an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, was carried out to inform an appeal and public inquiry for planning permission to develop the site for housing. No archaeological features of finds were recovered, however, ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval field cultivation were upstanding across the whole field.

1 INTRODUCTION

In February 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land at Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 4055 9738; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Morris Homes (East) Ltd and was undertaken to inform a planning appeal and public inquiry for an application for the proposed development of the land for housing.

The scope of works was outlined in the specification (Flitcroft 2011) issued by CgMs Consulting and approved by Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCCSPA). The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

The project archive is being deposited with Leicestershire Museums with the reference x.A9.2011; details of the project are being lodged with the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS scheme and with the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The site, which covers an area of c3.15ha, is located on the eastern edge of Stoke Golding village, 4km to the north-west of Hinckley. It is bounded to the north by pasture, to the east and part of the south by the Hinckley Road and west and south by housing (Fig 1). Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are aligned east to west across the field.

From the northern edge of the site the ground descends gently towards the south. Ground level lies at between 110m aOD at the north to 107m aOD at the south. At the time of the evaluation the land was pasture.

The underlying geology comprises Mercia Mudstone bedrock, overlain by superficial deposits of Diamiction of the Oadby Member in the north and east of the site and Wolston Sand and Gravel overlie the south-west of the site (Flitcroft 2010).



Scale 1:10,000

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

Reference to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) has not identified any presence of archaeological deposits or finds within the site.

A desk-based assessment (Flitcroft 2010) noted that no archaeological finds or activities have been recorded from the site. Within a 1km radius of the site there were twenty-five records, although most of these are of standing buildings. A flint scatter is recorded from a garden on Hinckley Road. Other than a single sherd of pottery, no Roman remains are recorded near the site, although remains are known towards Dadlington to the north. To the west of the site, at 800m, an Anglo-Saxon burial mound survives as an earthwork. Ridge and furrow earthworks, of presumed medieval origin, survive across the site.

The site has been subject to a geophysical survey, which did not identify any significant archaeological remains (Butler and Walford 2011).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the trial trench evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the nature of the larger ferrous anomalies identified in the geophysical survey
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

4 METHODOLOGY

Eight trial trenches, measuring 25m long by 1.8m wide, were excavated in accordance with the trench plan approved by LRCSPAA. Trench 1 was located to test an anomaly identified from the geophysical survey. The southern end of Trench 1 was extended 3m to the east to further investigate the geophysical anomaly. Trenches 3, 5 and 7 were each positioned along a ridge of the extant ridge and furrow earthworks to maximise the potential for locating archaeological features (Fig 2). They were positioned using a Leica 1200 GPS surveying system. A mechanical excavator (JCB 3CX), fitted with a 1.8m-wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to the natural substrate. Deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature.

Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A photographic



Trench layout, showing direction of ridge and furrow and geophysics data

record was made using 35mm black and white negative film and digital images. Spoil heaps were scanned by eye and metal detector to maximise the recovery of artefacts.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology varied greatly across the site. In the north and north-east parts of the site (Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8), generally, light blue-grey and brown and mid red-brown silty clays were encountered at a depth of between 0.28-0.50m below the modern ground surface. In the west and south parts (Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 6), mid brown and red-brown sandy clay with patches of angular and rounded gravel and cobbles was encountered at between 0.26-0.47m below the modern ground surface.

The subsoil was light to mid red-brown sandy soil, which varied in thickness across the site, but was generally 0.13-0.30m thick. The topsoil was mid red-brown sandy soil 0.12-0.20m thick. Both soils contained angular and rounded gravel.

5.2 The archaeological evidence

Extant ridge and furrow earthworks were present across the whole field. The distance between the ridges measured within the trenches, ranged from 5.5m to 10m, but the average distance was approximately 8m. A ceramic field drain had been cut into a furrow in Trench 4. Other than these, no archaeological features were encountered in any of the trenches (back cover).

Two sherds of glazed 20th-century pottery were recovered from the topsoil but were discarded.

6 DISCUSSION

A varied geology, consisting of silty clays with pockets of sand and gravels were present on the higher ground at the north and north-west of the site. To the lower and south of the site the natural deposits consisted of sandy gravels and cobbles within sandy clays.

Extant ridge and furrow earthworks were present, aligned north-east to south-west across the site.

There were no further archaeological features or deposits encountered within the site. No finds were recovered from the subsoil or topsoil, save two sherds of glazed 20th-century pottery which were discarded.

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IfA 1994, revised 2008 Standard and guidance for field evaluation, Institute for Archaeologists

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NA 2006 Archaeological Fieldwork Manual, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology a service of Northamptonshire County Council

4 March 2011

Trench	Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions
no				/thickness (m)
1	101	Layer	Topsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.14-0.25m
				thick
	102	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.13-0.24m
				thick
	103	Layer	Natural mid red-brown sandy clay with sands	
		-	and gravel	
2	201	Layer	Topsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.17m thick
	202	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.15m-0.22m
				thick
	203	Layer	Natural mid grey-brown with light brown silty	
			clay and patches of gravel	
3	301	Layer	l opsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.16m thick
	302	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.22m thick
	303	Layer	Natural mid red-brown silty clay with sand and	
			gravel patches	
4	401	Layer	l opsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.20m thick
	402	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.23-0.30m
				thick
	403	Layer	Natural mid orange-brown silty clay with	
_	= 0.4		gravel and mottling in the furrows	0.45.0.40
5	501	Layer	l opsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.15-0.19m
	500			
	502	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.20m thick
	503	Layer	Natural light-mid brown silty clay with sand	
0	004		and gravel patches and ironstone inclusions	0.40.0.47
6	601	Layer	lopsoil, mid red-brown sandy soil	0.12-0.17m
	000			
	602	Layer	Subsoil, light to mid red-brown sandy soil	0.14-0.20m
	000	Lauran		TNICK
	603	Layer	Natural mid grey-brown and orange mottled	
7	704	Lavar	Sandy clay	0.12.0.10m
1	701	Layer	i opsoli, mid red-brown sandy soli	0.13-0.19M
	700	Lover	Subseil light to mid rod brown condu coil	
	102	Layer	Subsoli, light to mid red-brown sandy soli	0.19-0.2300 thick
	702	Lover	Natural light mid grow brown ailty, aandy alay	UTICK
	703	Layer	with gravel patches	
8	801	Laver	Tonsoil mid red-brown sandy soil	0.16m thick
0	802	Layer	Subsoil light to mid red brown sandy soil	0.17m thick
	802	Layer	Natural light mid blue grov and brown silty	
	005	Layer	clay with gravel and cobble patches. Orange	
			motiling in furrows	
				1

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