



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Plan & Sample
Excavation at Manor Farm, Main Street,
Little Stretton, Leicestershire
(SP 6689 0115)**

Gerwyn Richards



ULAS Report No 2011-051
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(NGR SP 6689 0115)**

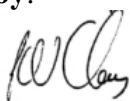
Gerwyn Richards

Planning Application: P.A.10/01264/3

For: Mrs S. Voce.

Approved by:

Signed:



Date: 14/04/2011

Name: Patrick Clay

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mrs S. Voce to undertake an archaeological strip, plan & sample excavation in advance of groundworks for the construction of new build on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Little Stretton, Leicestershire.

The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village. An archaeological evaluation had identified limited post-medieval deposits within the footprint of the proposed development. The archaeological strip, plan & sample excavation was confined to the south-eastern part of the footprint where reduction of the ground to formation level was greatest. The levels in the remaining areas were not reduced. The archaeological work revealed no deposits or finds of archaeological significance

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A48.2011.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mrs Voce to undertake an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation in advance of groundworks for the construction of a single residential unit on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Main Street, Little Stretton, Leicestershire (SP 6689 0115; *Figure 1*). The proposed development area was located to the north-west of Manor Farm, on the Main Street frontage. The archaeological works initially involved the controlled reduction of the ground level within the south-eastern part of the footprint of the proposed new build until archaeologically significant deposits were encountered or the proposed formation level was reached and monitoring the excavation of foundation trenches.

The Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council advised that the proposed works may have an impact upon buried archaeological remains. In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance was approved. This consisted of an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation carried out immediately in advance of the proposed groundworks undertaken by the client's contractors. This work followed Planning Policy Statement 5 *Planning and the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2010).

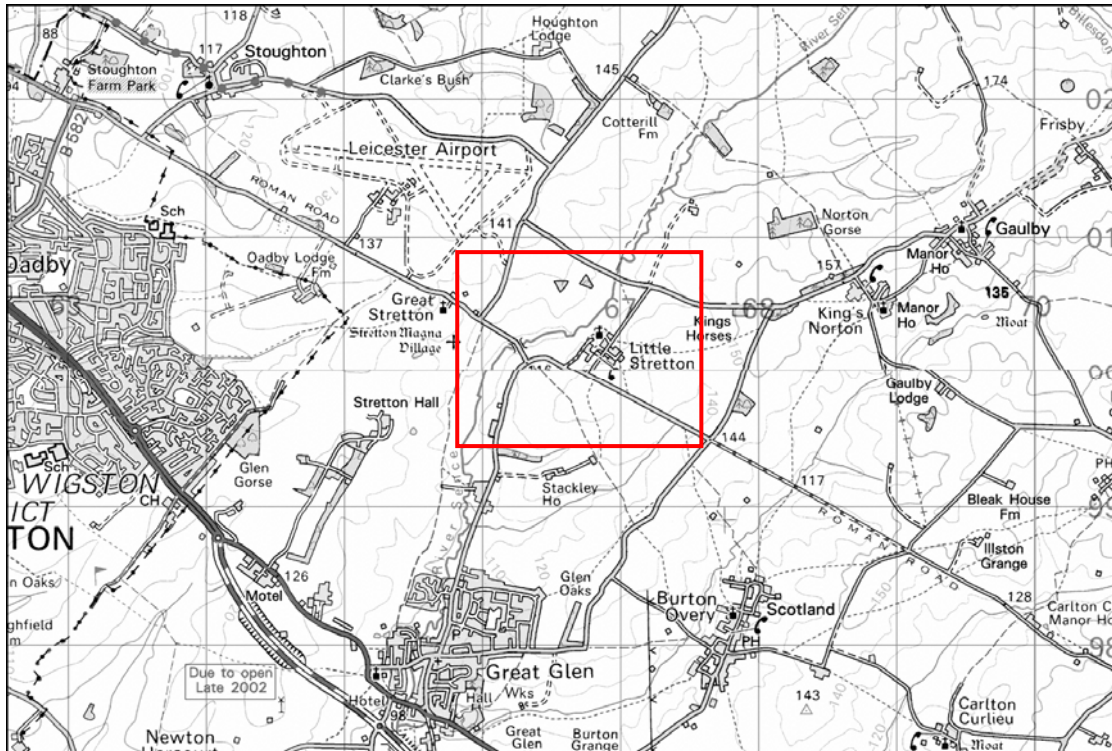


Figure 1. Site location

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2. Background

The proposed development area lies within the historic settlement core of Little Stretton. An archaeological desk based assessment commissioned by Mrs Voce (George 2004) indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire & Rutland (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, including the medieval and post medieval village core (HER Ref MLE9063). Manor Farm, itself is a Grade II Listed building the listing description is as follows (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>):

House. C18, part dated 1774. Red brick and Welsh slate twin span roof with brick ridge, valley and rear stacks. Wide pedimented gable to left on front of long cross wing. Here 2 bands. Twin span roof to right of this, though spans not of equal length. Wooden modillion cornice continuing round pediment and across right gable end. Lead and brick coped gables. 2 and 2½ storeys. Section to left of 2½ storeys of 3 2-light wooden mullion and transom windows. On 2nd floor a small 2-light either side central 2-light with round arched head. This breaks cornice and rises into tympanum. Section to right of 2 storeys of 3 6/6 sashes. 2 similar below with, on left, a pedimented doorcase. Part-glazed door and fanlight. Further 6/6 sashes on right end on both spans. On left end a front of 2½ storeys of 5 wooden mullion and transom windows with small attic 2-lights beneath cornice. Leaded lights on 1st and 2nd floors. Central part-glazed door with overlight and bracketted canopy.

Further 6/6 sashes to rear. Gauged brick lintels overall. Inside on ground floor is a late C18 carved white marble fireplace inlaid with yellow marble. This was originally on 1st floor. A brick on the cross wing is inscribed 'D.M. 1774'. Pevsner.

In addition, various medieval sites have been located within the vicinity of the proposed development area including Stretton Bridge (HER Ref MLE 2486), the Church of St John the Baptist in medieval in origin (HER Ref MLE 1861) as well as a number of sites associated with the nearby, scheduled deserted medieval village of Great Stretton (HER Ref MLE 2485). Archaeological sites from various other periods were also recorded by the desk-based assessment. These include traces of a possible Iron Age enclosure to the southwest (HER Ref MLE 1865), the projected line of the Roman road 'Gartree Road' to the south (HER Ref MLE2292) while Roman pottery sherds were located to the northwest (HER Ref MLE5935). Human remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were found on the line of the Gartree Road to the west of the development area (HER Ref MLE1863).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Glacial sand and gravel with clayey silt colluvial sand.

An archaeological evaluation carried out by ULAS (Richards 2011) recorded limited post-medieval remains including a well and a sunken cobbled area at a depth of 0.5m within the north-westernmost part of the proposed development area.

3. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological strip plan and sample excavation was to:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy. The methodology to be followed was detailed in the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* (ULAS 11-628).

The strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by a 7.5 tonne mini digger fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision to the depth of the formation level. The footings were excavated using a toothed bucket. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The archaeological work took place on April 5th 2011.



Figure 2 Detail site plan (in red) with area of archaeological work (in green).
(Supplied by Client, Not to Scale)

4. Results

The proposed development area is located within the garden of Manor Farm, adjacent to the Main Street frontage (*Figures 2 & 5*); the felled fruit trees, stumps and vegetation had been removed prior to the visit. The proposed development area had a considerable slope from the south-east to the north-west (Main Street frontage) and initial groundworks involved levelling this slope. The reduced dig to formation level, therefore, only affected the south-eastern part of the footprint where the ground was reduction varied between 0.1 and a maximum of approximately 0.8m. Excavation under archaeological control, removed the topsoil and subsoil revealing at its south-eastern extent an orange brown clayey sand and gravel substratum. The backfilled outline of trench 2, excavated during the evaluation was clearly visible, within the northern more shallow area of ground reduction which did not reach the same depth as the evaluation. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded within this part of the reduced dig or where the natural substratum was exposed.

As there was to be no reduced level excavation the north-westernmost footing trenches were monitored. This revealed the same stratigraphy as was in the south-eastern area and again nothing of archaeological significance was present.

5. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within the historic settlement core of Little Stretton, with known limited archaeological deposits. The archaeological evaluation indicated that these remains were likely to be limited to the north western part of the proposed development area. The strip map and sample excavation was undertaken to the formation level which only affected the south-eastern part of the proposed development area, within which no archaeologically significant deposits were recorded. The archaeological deposits recorded during the evaluation were unaffected by these groundworks and remain *in-situ* and undisturbed below the formation level of the new building.

6. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 9 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 9 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 1 A4 watching brief sheet
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-051)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A48.2011

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

7. References

George, S., 2004 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a Residential Development at Manor Farm, Main Street, Little Stretton, Stretton Magna, Leicestershire (SK 6890 0153)*. ULAS Report 2004-013.

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Richards, G., 2011 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Manor Farm, Little Stretton, Leicestershire. (NGR SK 6890 0153)*. ULAS Report 2011-005

ULAS 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip plan and sample excavation. Manor Farm, Main Street, Little Stretton, Leicestershire*

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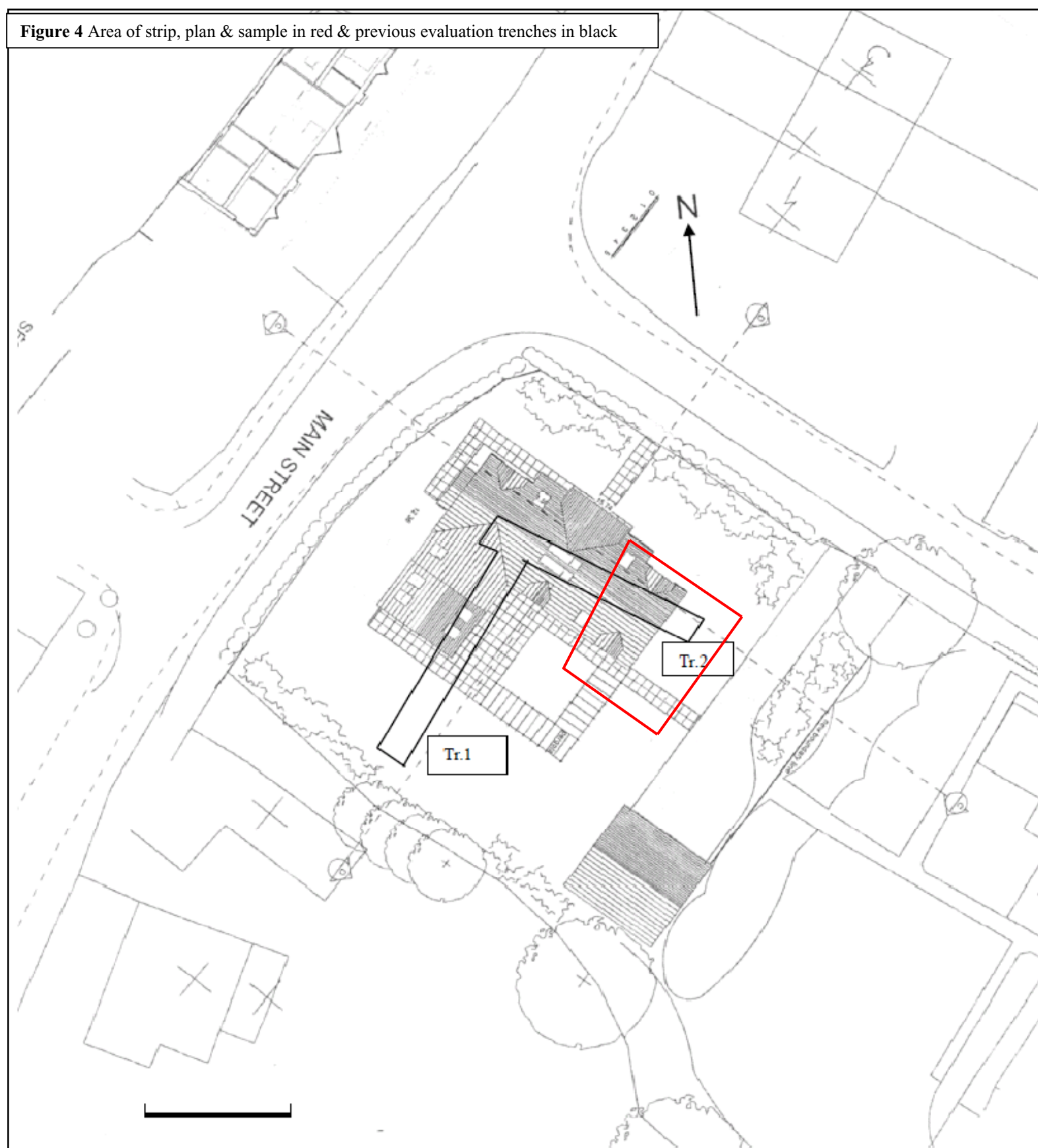
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Figure 3 Strip, map and plan excavation (looking south-east)



Appendix: Oasis

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/>

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Manor Farm
Project Type	Strip, Map & Sample
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: Evaluation. Future: None
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 6689 0115
Start/end dates of field work	April 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	122mOD
Study Area	N/A
Finds	None

Contact Details

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