



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on
Land at Church Street/Bowleys Lane,
Appleby Magna,
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SK 3137 0977 (centre)

Andrew Hyam



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**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on
Land at Church Street/Bowleys Lane,
Appleby Magna, Leicestershire**

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A R Hyam

For: Jupiter Strategic Land Limited

Approved by:

Signed:



Date:10.10.2014

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Church Street/Bowleys Lane, Appleby Magna between the 18th and 22nd of September 2014. The work was carried out as a response to a pre-planning enquiry and was designed to provide preliminary information in advance of a potential residential development.

Five 25 metre long trenches were excavated across the 3ha site which contains a number of well-preserved earthworks. A number of small ditches were identified in the western half of the site which are likely to be associated with the earthworks. A possible plot boundary was noted in the eastern half of the site. Most finds from the features date to the medieval period between the 13th and 15th centuries. Towards the northern edge of the site an area of made ground may be the evidence of backfilled fishponds or backfill from clay extraction activity, probably from the late 17th or 18th centuries. The foundations of a brick wall built from possible early 19th century bricks were also identified.

The report will be archived with Leicestershire County Council, Museums Service under Accession Number X.A121.2014.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012), the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (LCC), as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological field evaluation take place in order to provide preliminary pre-planning information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site. This document forms the report for the archaeological work on land at the corner of Church Street and Bowleys Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire. Should planning permission be granted it is intended that a small-scale residential development will be built on the site.

Background

Appleby Magna lies close to the western edge of Leicestershire and is approximately 2km south west of Measham (Fig. 1). The application area is located on the south western side of the village with Church Street forming the eastern boundary and Bowleys Lane running along the southern edge (Fig. 2). To the west is a large paddock and open fields. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the site is located within the historic core of the medieval village of Appleby Magna (MLE5992) and the western extent is within the

Conservation Area. The application area includes earthwork remains of former medieval closes along its eastern side, the site of the former Dormer's Hall in the centre of the site adjacent to the existing ponds, the line of the former driveway for Dormer's Hall, possible fishponds of Dormer's Hall (MLE4255) (Figs 3, 4 and 5). The earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow survive along the western side and the southern end of the plot. The site covers approximately 3ha although only the southern half is intended for residential development.

The site lies at a slightly elevated height above Church Street and Bowleys Lane (Fig. 6). There is a gentle slope down towards the south-east. At present the site is pasture and is used to graze sheep. A partially silted up pond lies in the north-western corner of the evaluation area which is surrounded by small trees and undergrowth. The remains of a north to south hedgeline separate the eastern portion of the site which also contains a semi derelict late 19th century brick-built barn.

Geophysical and earthwork surveys have been undertaken (Prestidge 2013; Harvey 2013). This work confirmed that the northern extent of the earthworks is relatively well preserved and any underlying archaeological deposits are likely to be relatively undisturbed. Part of the southern extent, comprising ridge and furrow earthworks, appeared to have been damaged by marl extraction.

The area lies on slight south-facing slope at *c.* 88m OD. The underlying geology of the site is Tarpoley Siltstone Formation.

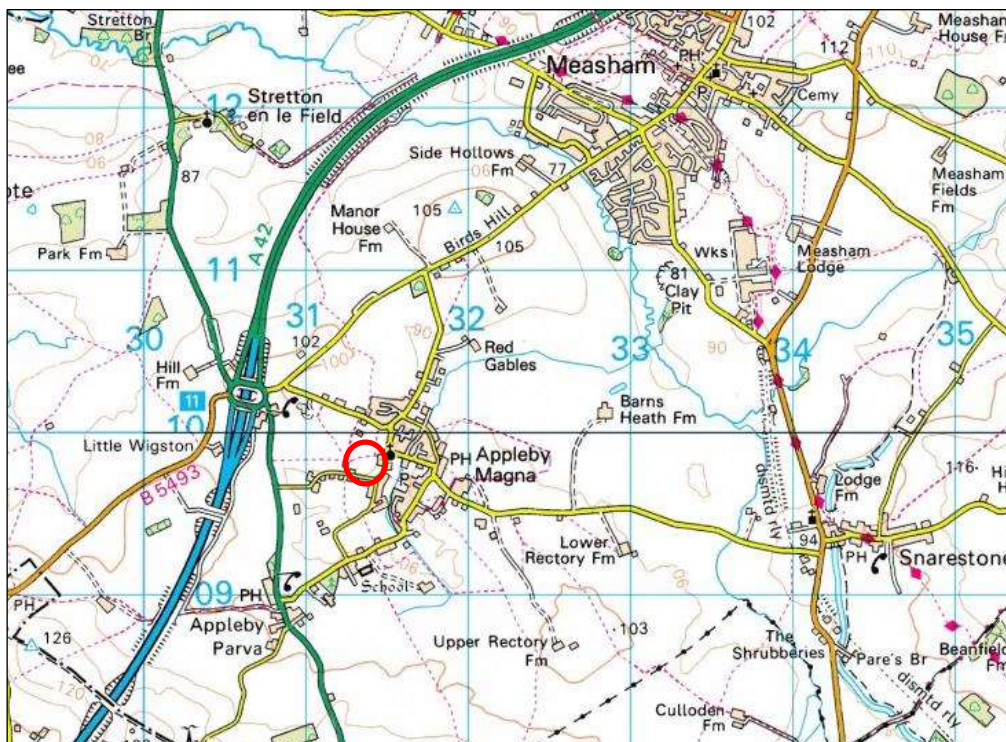


Figure 1 Appleby Magna location

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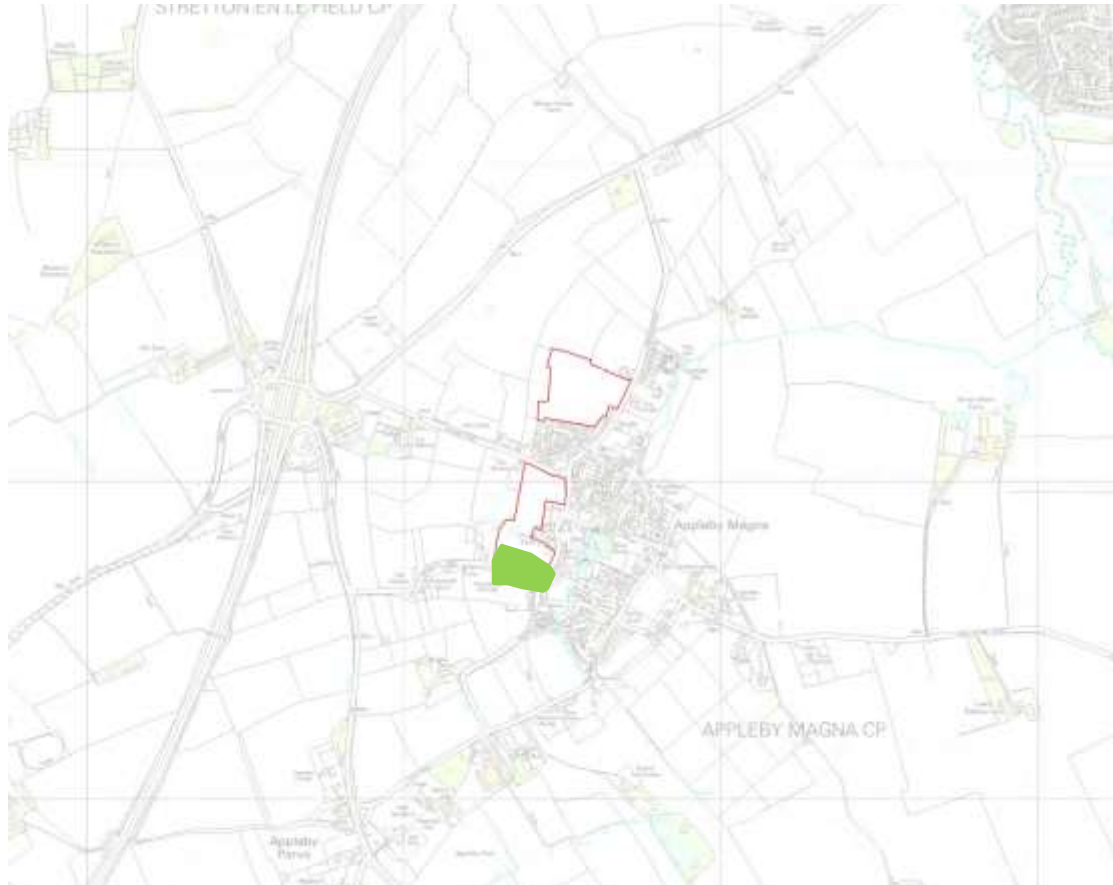


Figure 2 Site location
Highlighted in green



Figure 3 Earthwork survey by R F Hartley

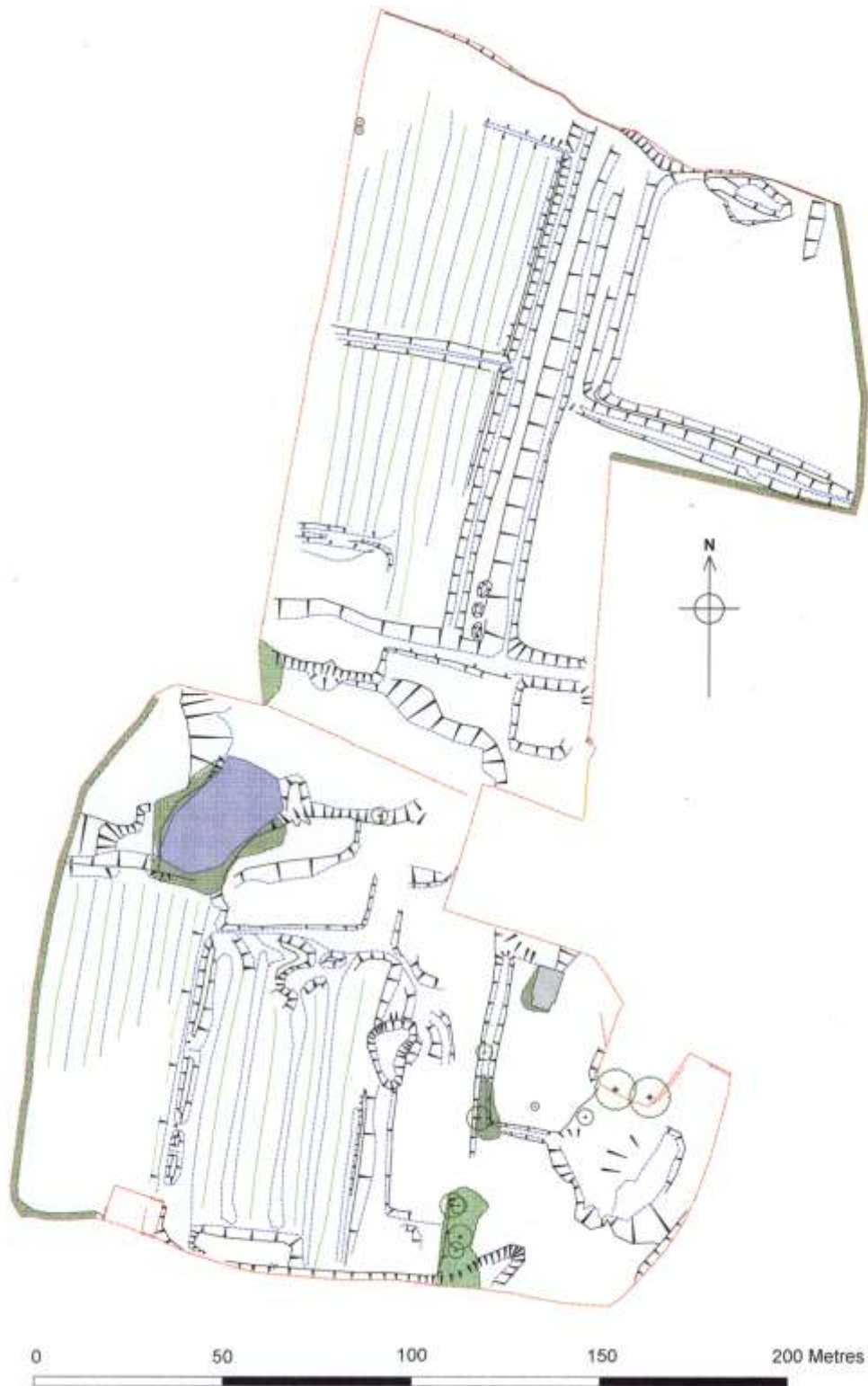


Figure 4 Earthworks on site (from Harvey 2014)



Figure 5 Earthworks on site
Looking north-eastwards



Figure 6 Bowleys Lane and site
Looking east. Site on left of photograph

Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

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

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that can demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

The Medieval period (Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)

The evaluation was identified as having the potential to contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - *Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.*

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2010) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) was adhered to.

Trial Trenching Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken. A fingertip search was also undertaken in view of the potential presence of Great Crested Newts. No newts were found at any stage of the work.

The Principal Planning Archaeologist at LCC, as advisor to NWLDC has suggested an initial *c.* 5% sample of the *c.* 1.4ha. area proposed for residential development; the equivalent of five 25m by 1.6m trenches (*c.* 200 sq. m.). The provisional trench plan in the ULAS Design Specification for Archaeological Work indicated the proposed location of the trenches, although the size and position indicated on the provisional trench plan varied slightly due to unforeseen site constraints.

After the initial fingertip search for Great Crested Newts the top 10cm of turf was removed in the presence of the ecologist. Following the turf removal the ecologist stood down and the remaining topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological

deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. A ramp was also constructed at each end of the trench to allow any newts, should any fall in, to safely escape. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation. Where structures, features or finds appeared to merit preservation in situ, they would be adequately protected from deterioration.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at an appropriate scale and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Sections of any excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench was recorded. All sections were tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

Trench locations were recorded by an appropriate method. These were then tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries were made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency would only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS would, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

After checking spoil and trenches for Great Crested Newts the trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Results

Five 25m long by 1.6m wide trenches were excavated across the southern half of the site following the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by LCC.

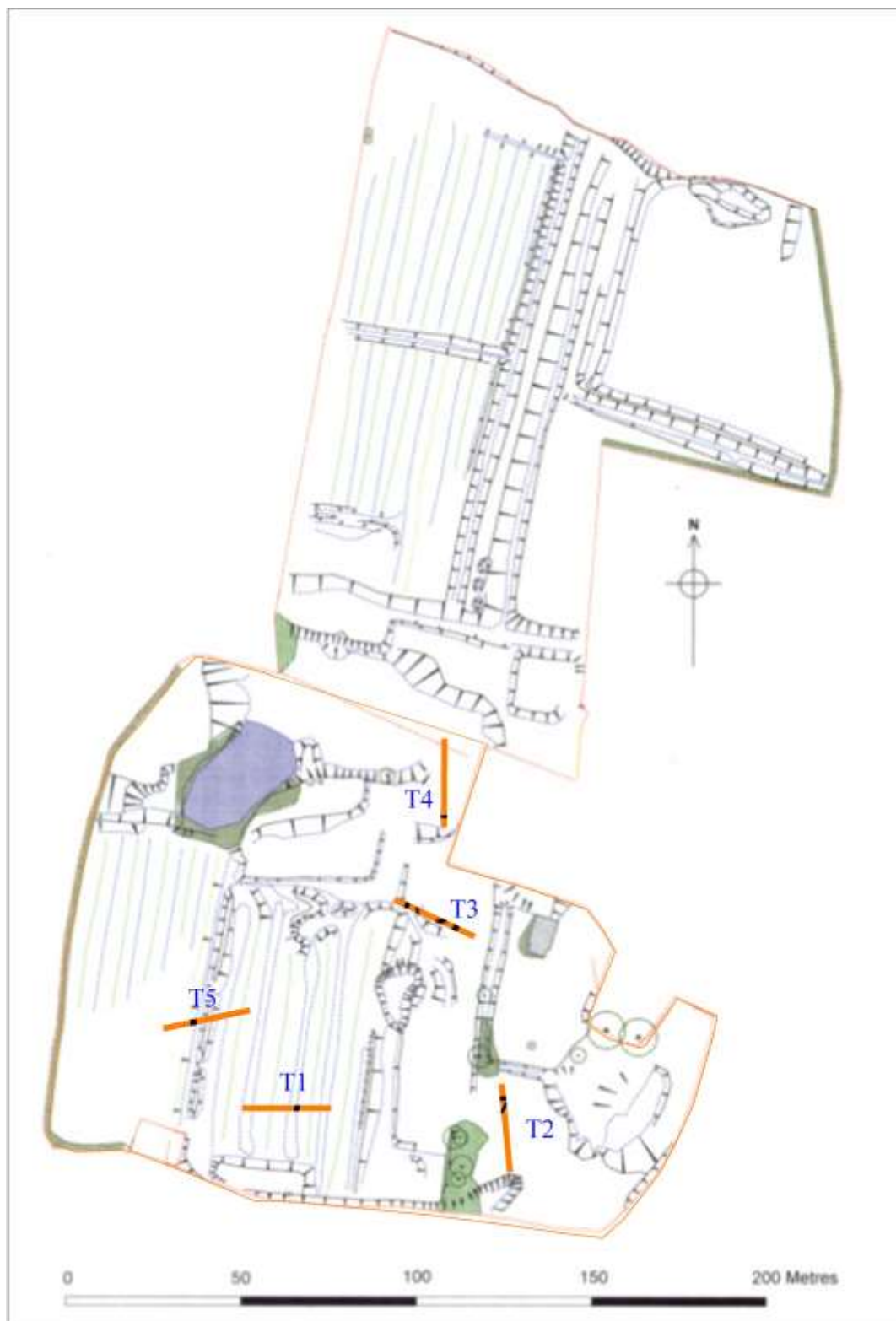


Figure 7 Trench locations
Location of features shown in black

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located towards the south side of the site near to the field entrance onto Bowleys Lane. This area of the site was relatively level with shallow depressions running up the slope to the north either side of a low mound across the centre of the proposed line of the trench (Fig. 8).

Between 0.15 and 0.2m of light grey brown slightly clayish sandy-silt topsoil was removed to reveal the subsoil consisting of a light reddish brown silty sandy-clay. Below the subsoil was the natural substrata of light reddish brown sandy-clay with patches and bands of sandy gravel (Fig. 9). Running from north to south in the centre of the trench was a single narrow ditch or gully [4] measuring 1.48m wide and 0.24m at its deepest point. The feature did not appear to relate to any of the earthworks seen prior to excavation although it did follow the same alignment as the shallow depressions running up the slope. When excavated the fill (3) was found to be a mid-red brown clay-silt with no finds being recovered from it (Figs. 10 and 11). The shelving shape suggested a recut feature which may indicate its use as a drainage gully or plot boundary.



Figure 8 Trench 1 before excavation
Trench 1 to be dug between ranging poles. JCB is on top of low earthwork



Figure 9 Trench 1 after excavation
Looking east. 1m scales



Figure 10 Trench 1, ditch [4]
1 and 0.4m scales

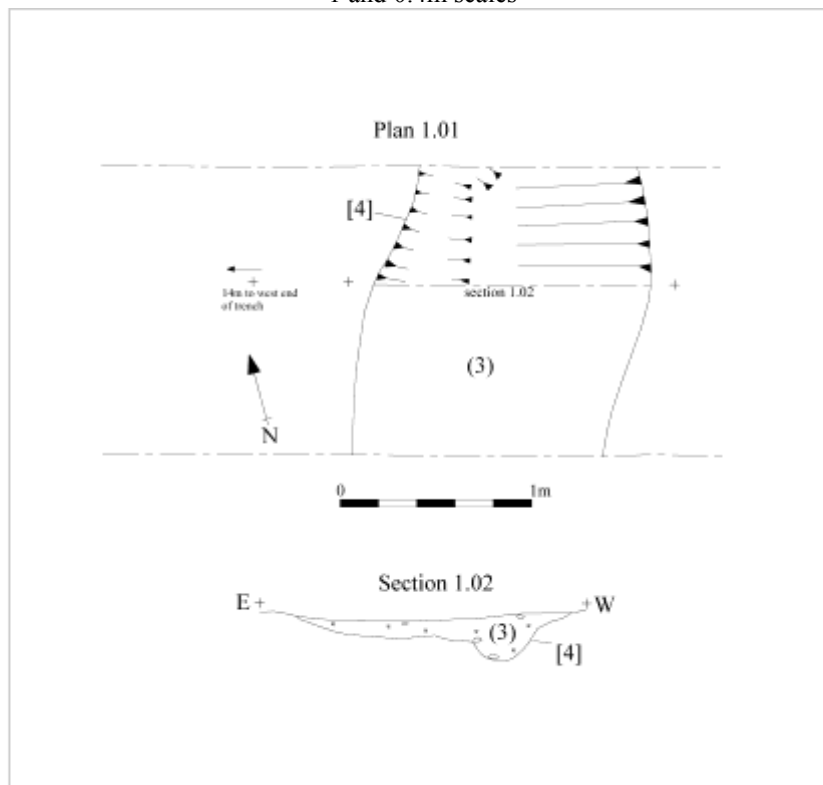


Figure 11 Trench 1

Trench 2

Trench 2 was placed in the south-eastern part of the site close to a former hedgeline which has been allowed to grow into larger trees and bushes. The trench ran from north-west to south-east down a shallow slope towards a small hollow which could be from a hollow way type field entrance or evidence of clay extraction. Between 0.19

and 0.2m of topsoil and 0.24 and 0.42m of subsoil of the same description as in Trench 1 were removed to reveal the natural substrata, also as seen in Trench 1 (Fig. 12). Two features were observed in this trench: east to west gully/ditch [11] and north east to south west linear [13] (Figs. 13 and 14). Ditch [11] was approximately 0.6m wide and only 0.2m deep and contained a mid-reddish grey sandy silty-clay with occasional sub-rounded stones and rare flecks of charcoal. Seven early medieval Oxidised/Reduced Sandy ware pottery sherds were recovered from the fill as was a single sherd of 13th century Chilvers Coton A ware. The feature ran parallel to Bowleys Lane and towards Church Street suggesting the line of a possible plot boundary.

Linear feature [13] was a slightly more ephemeral and wavy edged feature than [11] and had less well-defined edges. At its widest the gully measured 0.52m and was only 0.11m deep. The mid-brown-grey silty-clay fill (12) did not contain any datable finds.



Figure 12 Trench 2 after excavation
Looking south. 1m scales



Figure 13 Trench 2, features [11] and [13]
Looking north. 1m and 0.4m scales

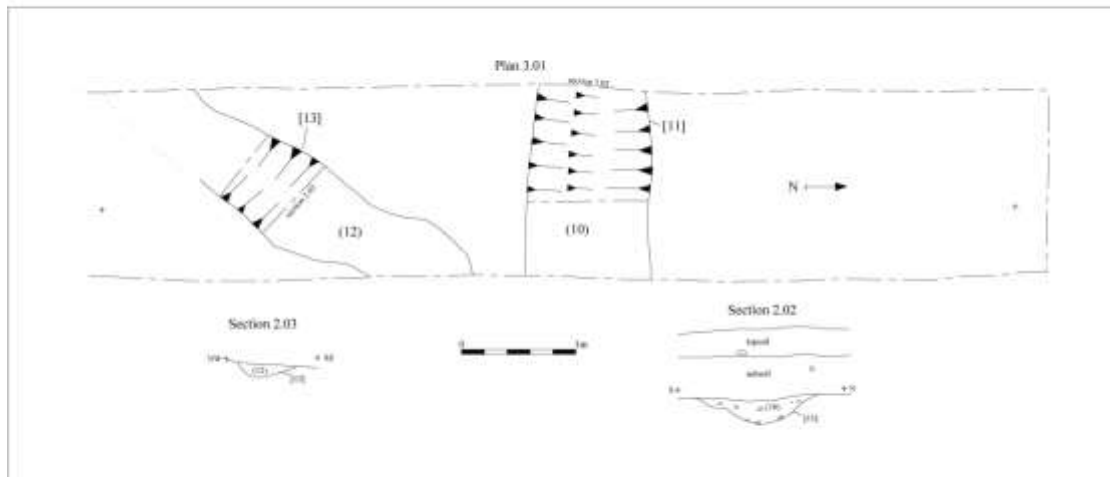


Figure 14 Trench 2

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the east of centre of the site. It was placed to the north of a semi-circular earthwork depression which may be from possible clay extraction or a drainage feature. The north-western end of the trench ran through a small gap in a long north to south earthwork bank. As in the previous trenches the same subsoil and topsoil was seen although only 0.12 to 0.2m of topsoil survived and between 0.07 and 0.25m of subsoil was seen. In places, i.e over stone features, the subsoil appeared to be virtually non-existent. Slightly lighter pinkish red sandy clay with stony gravel patches could be seen in this trench. During machining a 14th to 15th century Medieval Sandy ware strap handle was recovered from the subsoil. Four features were observed within this trench: Pit feature [15], stone drain (18), possible cobbled surface (19) and possible stone surface (20) (Fig. 15).

The pit-like feature [15] first appeared to be a wavy-edged linear feature but upon excavation showed itself to be an irregularly shaped circular feature with its edges beyond the limits of the evaluation trench (Fig.16). A single sherd of abraded 13th century Medieval Sandy ware pottery was recovered from the feature which contained pale greyish brown clay-silt fill (14) with frequent sub-rounded stones.

Two metres to the east of pit [15] was a possible stone drain feature built on a north to south alignment. The feature was made from unworked blocks of limestone with the exception of a single piece of stone which showed signs of parallel tool marks suggesting re-used stone (Fig. 17). The stones, set in a possible cut [17], formed two distinct lines with a silt-filled gap approximately 0.2m wide creating a drain-like feature. Projecting the line of the feature southwards for around 10m led to the semi-circular earthwork and which may be associated with each other.

A further 5.5m east of drain were the truncated remains of a probable cobbled surface (19) (Fig.18). The rounded cobbles varied in size from 0.04 to 0.1m in diameter and were closely packed together with two or three layers visible in places. This appeared to follow a north-east to south-west alignment with a partial boundary created on the eastern side by a number of unworked limestone lumps. The west boundary was more abraded and may have extended further west than at present. An iron nail and rim sherd of 13th century Medieval Sandy ware pottery was recovered during cleaning.

Another 2.5m east of cobbled surface (19) was a second apparent surface (20) created by a spread of closely packed unworked limestone set in a clay-silt matrix (Fig. 19). This area had the appearance of an attempt at a hardstanding area although, as such a small area was exposed, it could be a deposit of dumped stone. Another single sherd of 13th century Medieval Sandy ware medieval pottery was found within the matrix during cleaning.



Figure 15 Trench 3 after excavation
Looking west. 1m scale



Figure 16 Trench 3, Pit [15]
1m scale



Figure 17 Trench 3, possible drain (18)
Inset: toolmarks on stone



Figure 18 Trench 3, cobbled surface (19)
1m and 0.4m scales



Figure 19 Trench 3, stony surface (20)
1m and 0.4m scales

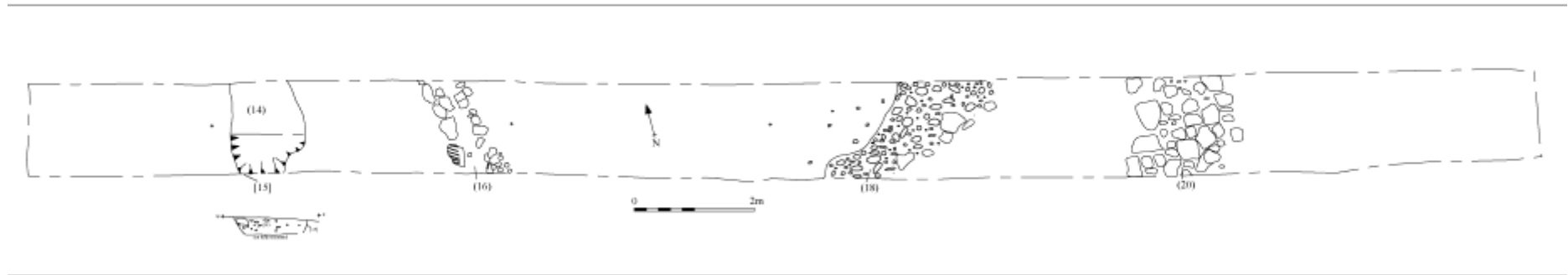


Figure 20 Trench 3

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site partially overlying a flattish area which extended west towards the sole remaining fishpond (Fig. 21). The flattish area appeared to be a backfilled area which may be from a backfilled fishpond system or from clay extraction and landscaping (Fig. 22). Two features were observed within this trench; the foundations of a brick wall (6) and a large area of backfill and made ground (5).

The backfilled area covered most of the northern part of the trench extending from the northern end as far south as a raised earthwork bank which could be traced westwards to the fishpond in the north-west part of the site. Removal of approximately 0.1m of turf and topsoil exposed the top of a mixed spread of dark grey and black sandy clay with patches of dark brownish orange sandy clay (5). The fill contained frequent numbers of brick fragments, limestone and rounded pebbles as well as a small amount of post medieval pottery ranging from the 15th to the 18th centuries. This was excavated down to 0.95m below current ground level at the north end until a wide cut for a possible drain or service was encountered (Fig. 23). In the centre of the trench the backfill was removed to reveal a thin layer of subsoil-like material on top of the reddish brown sandy clay natural substratum. As noted, the backfill (5) continued as far as a slight east to west earthwork which was where the brick wall (6) was encountered.



Figure 21 Trench 4 after excavation
Looking north. 1m scales



Figure 22 Trench 4 from fishpond
Looking east across backfilled ground towards trench (arrowed)



Figure 23 Trench 4 backfill area
Looking south. 1m scales



Figure 24 Trench 4, brick wall (6)
1m and 0.4m scales

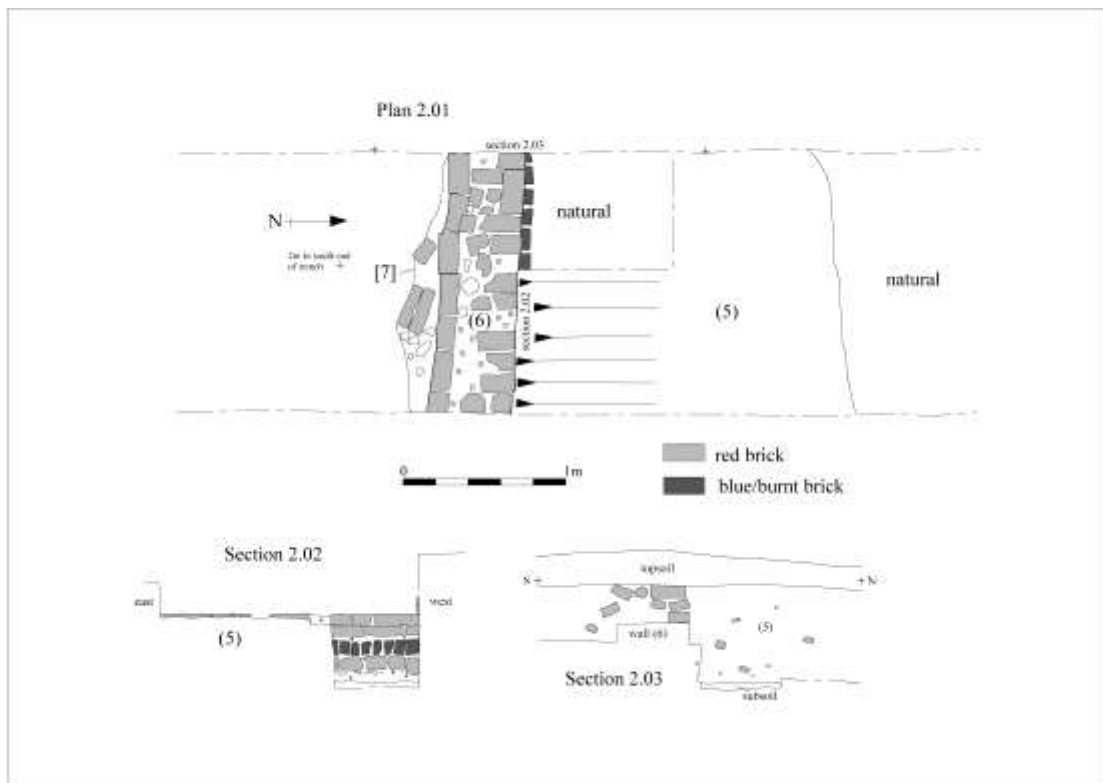


Figure 25 Trench 4

Wall (6) was built from bricks and bonded with a fine light grey clay. The bricks appeared to be quite badly abraded and were a variety of sizes ranging from 110mm

wide by 55mm thick by 235mm long up to 120mm wide by 60mm thick by 240mm long suggesting that they have been reused from elsewhere. Four full courses survived but the area above and around the wall contained a large number of loose bricks indicating that the wall may have been levelled to create a flat field. Most bricks were red but a row of blue or semi vitrified bricks could be seen on the second course (Fig. 24). The foundation wall appeared to have been built in a narrow cut [7] which partially cut into the natural substratum and the made ground (5).

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located towards the south-west of the site on an east to west alignment. The trench cut across a north to south double bank running almost from Bowleys Lane towards the pond (Fig. 26). Between 0.15 and 0.3m of topsoil and 0.14 and 0.3m of subsoil of the same description as in Trench 1 were removed to reveal the natural substrata, also as seen in Trench 1 (Fig. 27). A single north to south ditch [9] located on the western side of the double bank was observed.

Ditch [9] measured 1.56m wide and 0.37m deep and contained a mid grey brown clay-silt with a number of limestone fragments towards the base of the feature (Fig. 28). Some 14th or 15th century Medieval Sandy ware pottery was recovered from the fill along with a fragment of animal bone.



Figure 26 Trench 5 location

Looking north. Photograph taken after backfilling to show earthworks



Figure 27 Trench 5 after excavation



Figure 28 Trench 5, ditch [9]
1m and 0.4m scales

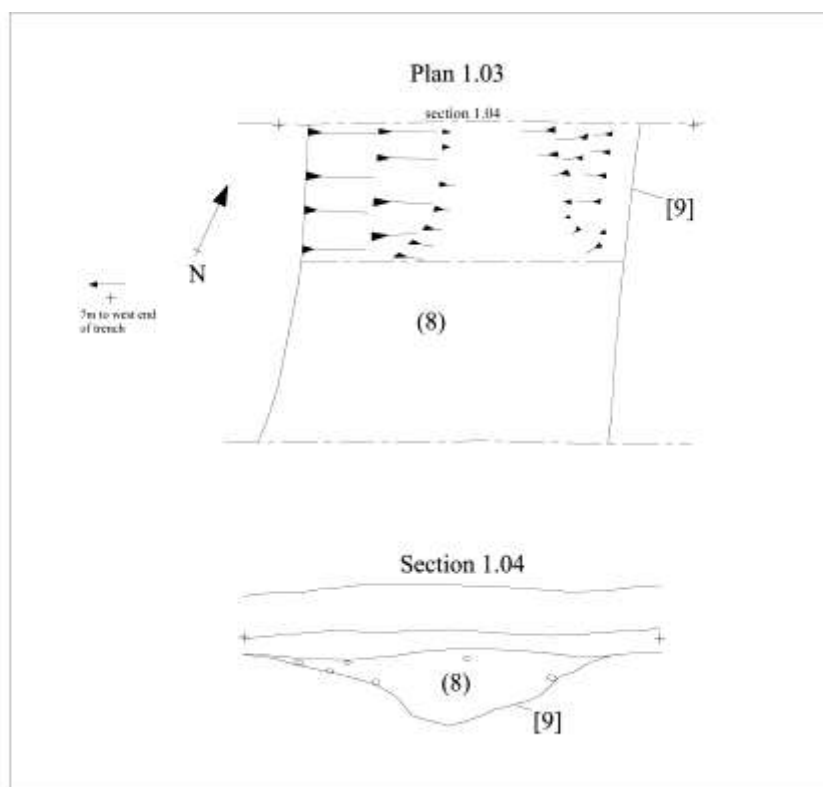


Figure 29 Trench 5

Discussion

The five trenches excavated during this evaluation demonstrate that there is potential for the survival of medieval archaeological deposits across the site. It is likely that the gully or ditch features found in Trenches 1 and 5 are associated with the earthworks still present within the site. The earthworks are believed to be associated with the

former Dormer's Hall. The possible surfaces in Trench 3 may also relate to the same period as similar pottery was recovered from the fill during cleaning. As only the trench width areas of both surfaces and the possible drain were examined more work would be needed to fully understand their form and function. The features seen in Trench 2 may be associated with property boundaries running down towards Church Street. On the basis of the pottery found in the east to west gully, they may still be of a similar date which might suggest that this corner of the site did not belong to the Dormer's Hall complex.

The backfilled area examined in Trench 4 may be an attempt to reclaim land previously used as part of a series of fishponds. It is possible that the ponds had gradually silted up and the backfill represents a period of dumping to create a slightly drier and more useable piece of ground. Alternatively, if this is where clay extraction took place then the deposit may be evidence of backfilling the pits. However, the undisturbed nature of the natural substratum below backfill (5) may suggest pond backfill rather than digging for clay. The finds recovered from this material indicate a post-medieval date for this backfilling. The brick wall which appears to form a boundary between the backfill and the rest of the field had been built from reused bricks. The use of clay for the bonding material could point towards a single storey agricultural structure rather than a domestic building. Again this is likely to date to the later post-medieval or early modern periods.

Overall the state of preservation of both below ground archaeological deposits and above ground earthworks for such a centrally located site within the village is very good. The fact that most excavated features provided datable evidence also aids the understanding of the site.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,
20 single context record sheets,
5 pro-forma A4 trench recording sheets,
1 A4 context register sheet,
2 A4 photo record sheets,
1 A4 drawing index sheet,
4 A3 perma-trace drawing sheets,
3 A4 contact sheets of 75 digital photographs,
1 CD of digital photographs

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Dr P Clay, the fieldwork was carried out by A Hyam and S Henderson.

Bibliography

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Harvey, J., 2013 *An Archaeological Earthwork Survey on land west of Church Street, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (NGR SK 313 098)* ULAS Report 2013-204

IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

ULAS. Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: Land at Church Street/Bowlers Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire

Website:

http://www.applebymagna.org.uk/appleby_history/in_focus11_dormers_hall.htm

Appendix 1 Pottery Analysis

Deborah Sawday

The pottery, 36 sherds, weighing 530 grams was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). Miscellaneous finds of ceramic building material, fired clay, animal bone, clay pipe and an iron object were also present.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery & misc. finds by fabric/material, sherd/fragment numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/ware	No.	Gr	Comments
5 T4	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	81	Pale pink/orange body, white clay inclusions. Slipped wide mouthed bowl rim, rim diameter c.440mm, EVEs 0.075, post med.
5	EA2 – Earthenware 2	2	117	Fabric as above. Slipped & internally brown glazed bowl rim and base fragment, rim diameter c.420mm, EVEs 0.040, post med.
5	EA3 – Mottled ware	3	12	Misc. glazed body & base sherds, c.1680-1760+
8 [9] T5	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	9	65	Misc. glazed body & base sherds, and ridged strap handle. Pink, orange, grey bodied, coarse inclusions, hard fired & abraded - possibly

				local wares (S. Derbys), dated c. 14 th – 15 th C.
12 [13] T2	OS/RS – Oxidised/Reduced Sandy ware	7	39	Minimum 3 vessels, misc. body/base. Generally reduced dark core, orange surfaces, white quartz/quartzite inclusions – early med.
12	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	1	13	White bodied sandy ware, apple green glaze, c.1250+.
14 [15]	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	4	Abraded, fine white sandy ware, sooted externally, c.1250+
18 [17] T3	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	7	Fine orange/pink bodied, orange glazed internally, sooted externally, c.1250+
18	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	2	Body, light orange, grey bodied, coarse inclusions, hard fired & abraded - ?local ware (S. Derbys) dated c. 14 th – 15 th C. as above?
19 T3	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	8	Orange/pink bodied, abraded ?simple everted jar rim, externally sooted orange glazed internally, sooted externally, c.1250+
20 T3	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	10	Pale buff bodied, light green glaze, externally, abraded, c.1250+
U/S T3	CC1 – Chilvers Coton A ware	2	12	Yellowish green glaze, c.1250+-
U/S T3	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	106	Strap handle, light orange core, grey surfaces, coarse inclusions, hard fired - ?local ware (S. Derbys) dated c. 14 th – 15 th C as above?
U/S T5	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	4	Pale pinkish/grey body, olive green glaze & inscribed lines on exterior, probably a jug shoulder, c.1250+
U/S T5	MS –Medieval Sandy ware	1	22	Grey core, purple interior, buff exterior, coarse fabric dated c. 14 th – 15 th C. as above.
U/S T5	Midland Purple	2	19	Hard fired reduced grey body, coarse inclusions, dark olive glaze – later 14 th – mid 16 th C.
U/S	CW – Cistercian ware	1	9	Glazed jug neck, not obviously at Ticknall product, mid/late 15 th – mid 16 th C.
MISC				
Context	Material	No	Gr	
5	China Clay	2		Clay tobacco pipe bowl & stem. Bowl stamped 'TS' – most of the published directories refer to in Leics and adjacent counties refer to 19 th C pipe makers eg., Thomas Strong, 1829-35, Derby. However the shape of this midlands spur type bowl

				suggests a later 17 th C, ie c1670+ date (Higgins 1985, fig.1.3 & 5).
5	Bone	2		Animal
8	Bone	2		Animal
19	Iron	1		?nail
U/S T3	EA - Earthenware	1	92	Flat roof tile – post med/modern
U/S T3	Fired Clay	1	8	

Site/ Parish: Site of former Dormer's Hall (dem. 16 th C). Accession No.: XA121.4014 Document Ref: appleby magna5.docx Material: pot & misc. finds.	Submitter: A. Hyam Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 9.10.2014 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 14-641 Site Type: medieval earthworks
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Appendix 2 OASIS Information

Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Church Street/Bowleys Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P N Clay
Project Supervisor	A R Hyam
Previous/Future work	Earthwork survey
Current Land Use	Agricultural

Development Type	Domestic
Reason for Investigation	Pre planning
Position in the Planning Process	Pre planning
Site Co ordinates	SK 3137 0977 (centre)
Start/end dates of field work	18.09.2014 – 22.09.2014
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	3ha

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