



# University of **Leicester**

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## Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Field  
Evaluation on Land at  
Top Street,  
Appleby Magna  
Leicestershire  
(SK 43170 30946)

James Patrick




**An archaeological field evaluation on land at  
Top Street, Appleby Magna  
Leicestershire  
(SK 43170 30946)**

**James Patrick**

**for  
Persimmon Homes Ltd**

Approved by:

**Signed:** 

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## **An archaeological field evaluation on land at Top Street, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 443170 30946)**

James Patrick

### **Summary**

*An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Top Street, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 43170 30946). The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes in advance of the proposed development (Planning Application 13/00697/OUTM) of the site for new housing.*

*The site consists of a North-West- South-East oriented rectangular field currently on un-grazed heavily grassed pasture land. The area covers approximately 1 hectare. The Historic Core of the medieval village of Appleby Magna (MLE 5992) is located north-west of the application area as recorded by the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). The nearest Archaeological works to the site took place 600 metres to the west on the site of a hotel at the nearby M42 junction. This revealed a small Roman farmstead (MLE8596; Clarke 2000;2010).The site also lies to the south east of the route of a postulated Roman road linking Watling Street, at Tamworth, to a crossing of the Trent at Sawley and the adjacent Roman small town at Redhill (MLE20490). Also a trial trenching evaluation on this site identified earthworks and Medieval deposits (Jarvis 2014).*

*A total of 11 trenches were excavated across the field; 8 of which were 30 metres in length, two 15 metres and one 22 metres in length. No Archaeological features were found in any of the trenches. This was with exception to the well preserved medieval Ridge and furrow which was which was orientated NW –SE. The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A117.2015.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Persimmon Homes to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at Top Street, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 43170 30946). The Archaeological works were undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2015.

Planning consent has been granted for the development of the site for 29 houses.

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

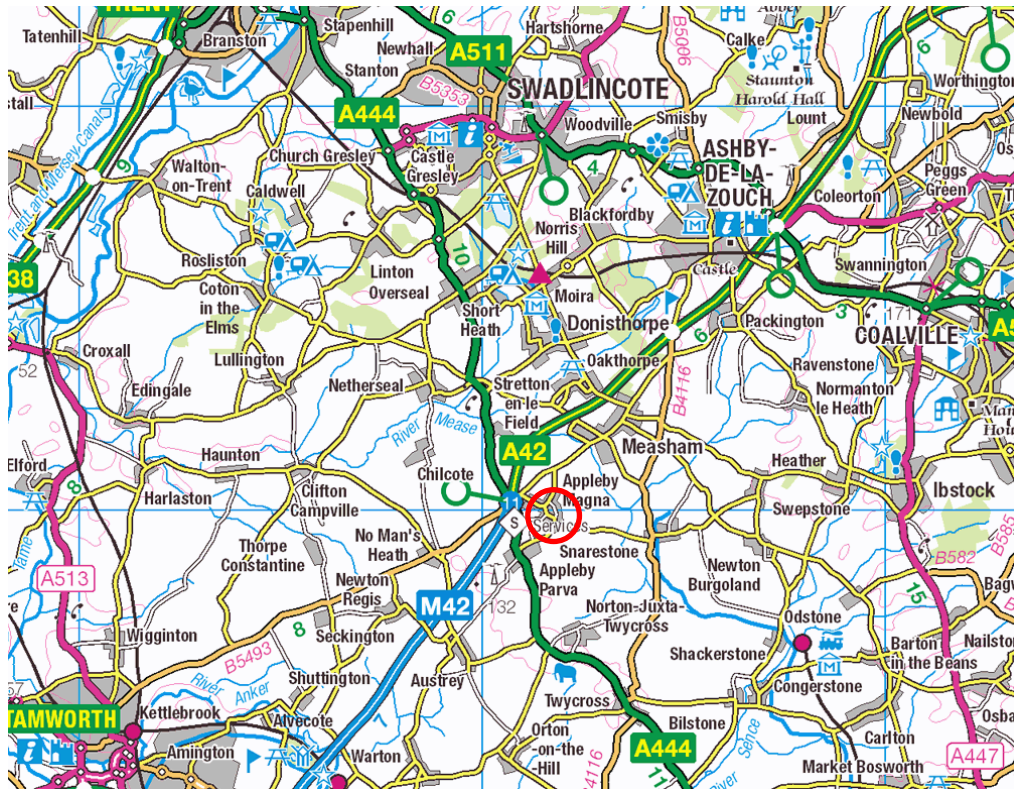


Figure 1 Site Location

Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Scale 1: 250,000

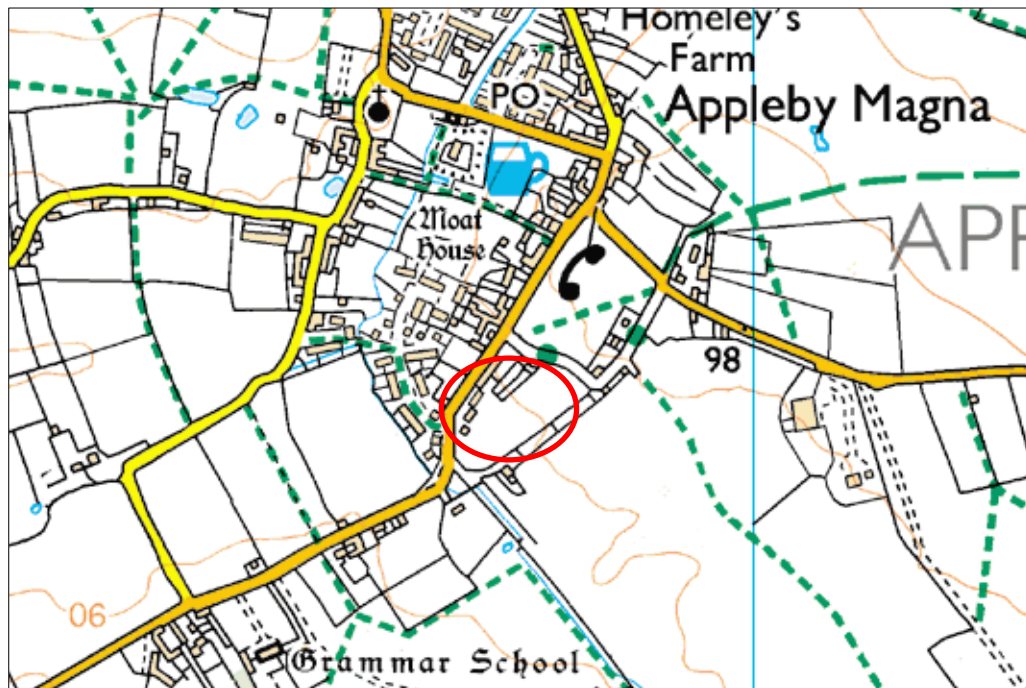


Figure 2 Site Location

Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Scale 1: 25,000

## **Location and Geology**

Appleby Magna lies around 2.5 km south-west of Measham and 3km west of Snarestone. It is located just to the East of the A444 and just South of the A42.

It is set in its own parish and includes Appleby Parva in the district of North-West Leicestershire. The site consists of one rectangular field south- east of Top Street. The village core of Appleby Magna lies within 100 metres to the north –west.

The single field was un-grazed grass at the time of the evaluation and was accessed via a farm gate. A power line and sewer runs across the south end of the field; the former running north-west to south- east which caused trench 11 to be shortened.

The field is bordered by Botts lane to the north- east, with Top Street and housing to the north- west. Isolated houses and continuing agricultural land exist to the south and east. The site forms a rough oblong parcel of land covering *c.* 1 ha. currently laid to pasture which slopes from 95.00m AOD from the north where it abuts Botts Lane to 90.00m AOD south and where it meets Top Street. The underlying geology of the site is shown on the British Geological Survey website as consisting Tarpoley Siltstone Formation-Siltstone Mudstone and Sandstone.

## **Historical and Archaeological Background**

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there is an archaeological site located 600 metres west from the assessment area (MLE8596; Clarke 2000; 2010). A Roman Farmstead was discovered on a Hotel site east of the nearby A42 junction. This consisted of a corn drying oven with possible threshing floors. Possible structures including a sunken feature building were found. The site also lies to the south east of a postulated Roman road linking Watling Street, at Tamworth, to a crossing of the Trent at Sawley and the adjacent Roman small town at Redhill (MLE20490).

Also it is close to the Medieval Village core of Appleby Magna situated to the north west (MLE 5992), therefore a possibility of former Medieval frontages along Top Street and Botts lane.

## **Archaeological 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 is 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 will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

### Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS (Appendix I).

A 5% sample was to be taken equating to nine 30m x 1.8m and two 15m x 1.8m trenches (c. 540 sq. m.). However due to the constraints posed by a sewer and an overhead power cable to the South of the field there was eight 30m trenches, two 15m trenches and one 22m trench.

As a result, the orientation and position of some of the trenches proposed in the WSI was altered slightly to work around the power lines and sewer that crossed the site.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.60m toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were backfilled after recording.

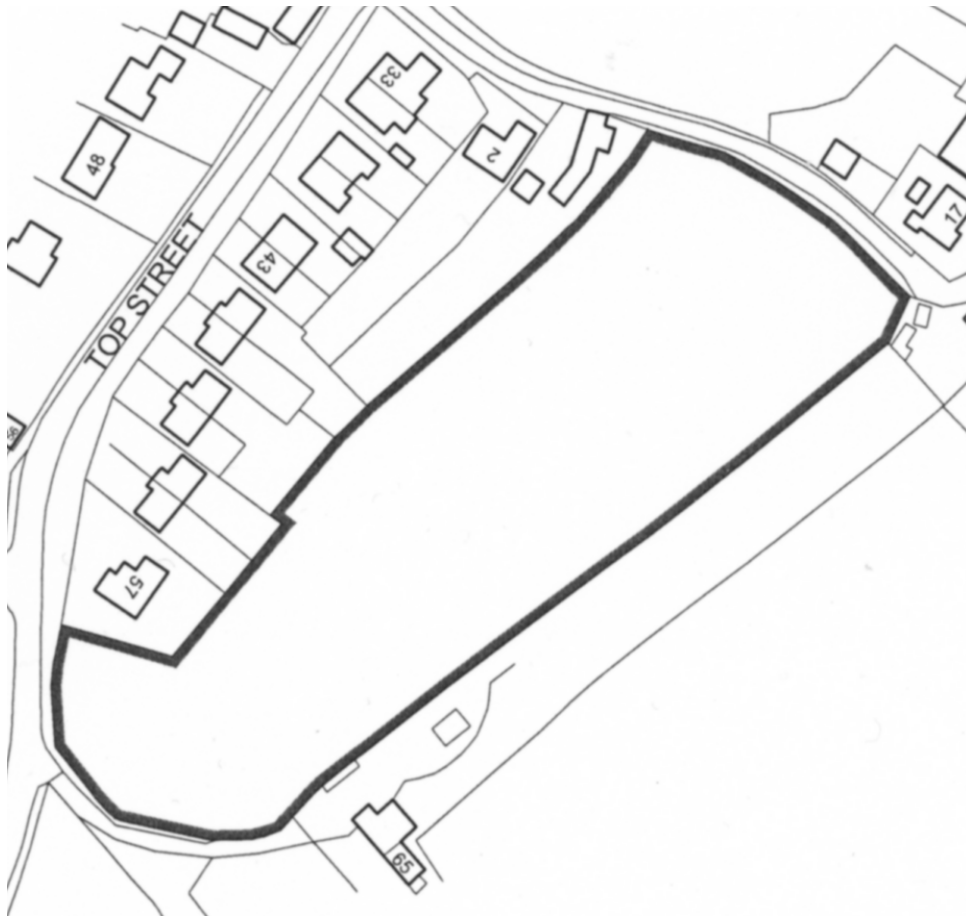


Figure 3 Plan of application area

## Results

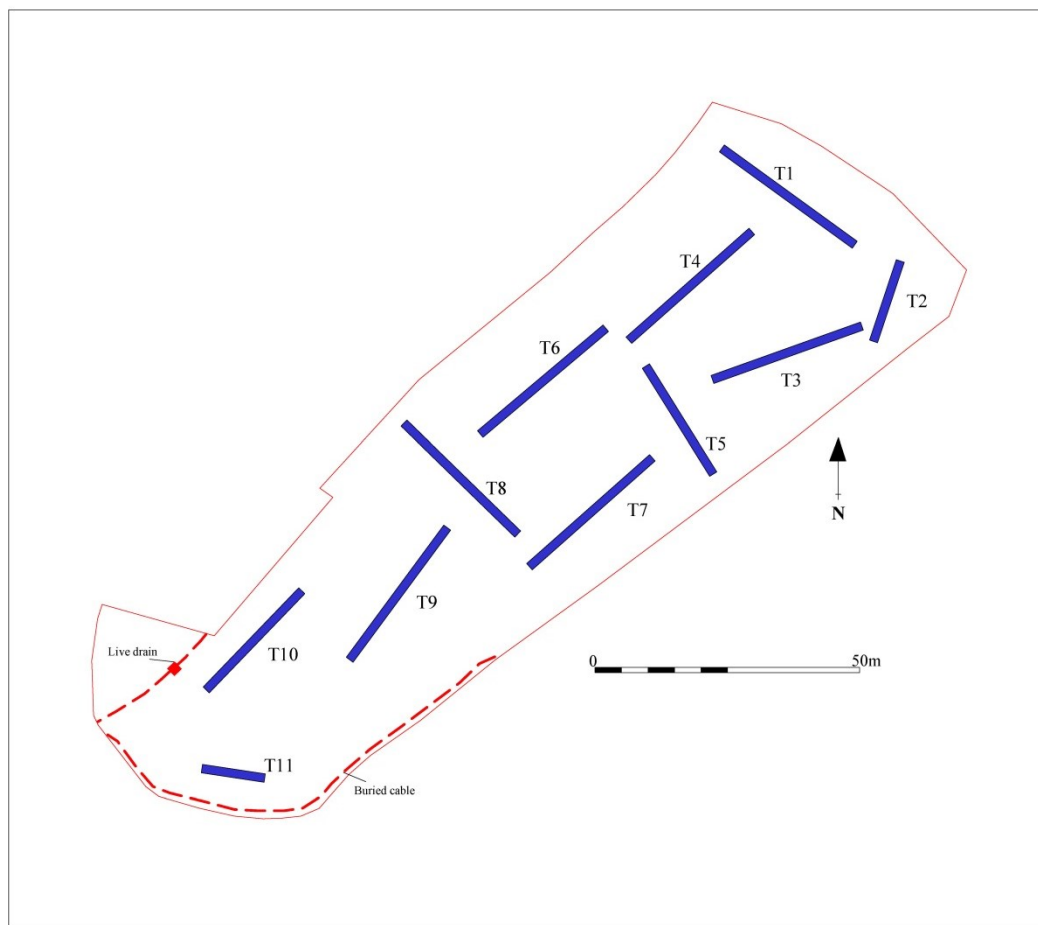


Figure 4 Trench positions



Figure 5 Trench 1



*Trench 01*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 31m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Mid Yellow Brown with spots of Greeny Grey degraded sand stone. Also occasional areas of mid Red Brown Clay

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(NW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (SE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.16m	0.16m	0.15m	0.10m	0.18m	0.10m	0.15m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.31m	0.23m	0.20m	0.15m	0.32m	0.10m	0.30m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.47m	0.39m	0.35m	0.25m	0.50m	0.20m	0.45m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.48m	0.40m	0.36m	0.25m	0.50m	0.22m	0.45m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 6 Trench 2

*Trench 02*

Orientation: SE-NW

Length: 16m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Clean Red Brown Clay. Yellow Brown Clay to North

INTERVAL		5m	10m	16m
(NE) 0m				SW
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.25m	0.24m	0.10m	0.11m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.25m	0.27m	0.12m	0.13m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.50m	0.51m	0.22m	0.24m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.50m	0.51m	0.22m	0.24m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 7 Trench 3.

*Trench 03*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: As trench 1

INTERVAL	(NE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (SW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.16m	0.20m	0.17m	0.14m	0.16m	0.15m	0.10m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.26m	0.30m	0.29m	0.30m	0.22m	0.15m	0.14m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.42m	0.50m	0.46m	0.44m	0.38m	0.30m	0.24m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.42m	0.50m	0.47m	0.44m	0.39m	0.30m	0.24m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 8 Trench 4

*Trench 04*

Orientation: SW-NE

Length: 31m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: As trench 1

INTERVAL	(NE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (SW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.14m	0.13m	0.12m	0.14m	0.17m	0.14m	0.14m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.15m	0.20m	0.16m	0.18m	0.24m	0.18m	0.16m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.29m	0.33m	0.28m	0.32m	0.41m	0.32m	0.30m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.29m	0.33m	0.28m	0.34m	0.41m	0.32m	0.30m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 9 Trench 5

*Trench 05*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 24m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: : As trench 1

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(NW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>24m (SE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.15m	0.12m	0.18m	0.14m	0.18m	0.15m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.20m	0.24m	0.28m	0.26m	0.21m	0.16m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.35m	0.36m	0.46m	0.40m	0.39m	0.31m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.37m	0.36m	0.46m	0.40m	0.39m	0.33m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 10 Trench 6.

*Trench 06*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 31m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid Red Brown Clayey Silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles

Subsoil: Pale Red Brown Clayey Silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: As trench 1

INTERVAL	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (NW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.14m	0.18m	0.19m	0.20m	0.20m	0.21m	0.22m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.32m	0.22m	0.23m	0.24m	0.23m	0.29m	0.28m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.46m	0.40m	0.42m	0.44m	0.43m	0.50m	0.50m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.47m	0.41m	0.42m	0.45m	0.44m	0.50m	0.51m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 11 Trench 07

*Trench 07*

Orientation: NE-SW

Length: 31m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: As trench 1

Subsoil: As Trench 1

Natural Substratum: Clean Red Brown Clay

INTERVAL	(NE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	31m (SW)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.15m	0.14m	0.18m	0.12m	0.14m	0.13m	0.14m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.22m	0.20m	0.17m	0.12m	0.17m	0.18m	0.18m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.37m	0.34m	0.35m	0.24m	0.31m	0.31m	0.32m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.38m	0.36m	0.39m	0.27m	0.34m	0.33m	0.34m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench except ploughed out ridge and furrow running north-east to south-west.



Figure 12 Trench 08

*Trench 08*

Orientation: NW-SE

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: As trench 1

Subsoil: As Trench 1

Natural Substratum: As Trench 1

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW) 0m</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m (NE)</b>
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.16m	0.17m	0.18m	0.28m	0.18m	0.20m	0.18m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.18m	0.18m	0.35m	0.35m	0.27m	0.25m	0.27m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.28m	0.35m	0.53m	0.63m	0.45m	0.45m	0.45m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.28m	0.35m	0.53m	0.65m	0.46m	0.45m	0.45m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.



Figure 13 Trench 9

*Trench 09*

Orientation: NE-SW

Length: 31m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: As Trench 1

Subsoil: As Trench 1

Natural Substratum: Pale Orange Brown Silty Clay

<b>INTERVAL</b>	<b>(SW)</b>	<b>5m</b>	<b>10m</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>25m</b>	<b>30m</b>
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	0m						(NE)
<b>TOPSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m	0.17m	0.12m	0.12m
<b>SUBSOIL DEPTH</b>	0.30m	0.31m	0.32m	0.25m	0.24m	0.20m	0.19m
<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.50m	0.51m	0.52m	0.43m	0.41m	0.37m	0.31m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.50m	0.52m	0.52m	0.43m	0.41m	0.38m	0.31m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.



Figure 14 Trench 10

*Trench 10*

Orientation: NE-SW

Length: 26m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: As Trench 1

Subsoil: As Trench 1

Natural Substratum: Pale Orange Brown Sandy Clay

INTERVAL	(S) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m
TOPSOIL DEPTH	0.16m	0.17m	0.15m	0.18m	0.15m	0.15m
SUBSOIL DEPTH	0.28m	0.29m	0.20m	0.19m	0.15m	0.17m
TOP OF NATURAL	0.44m	0.46m	0.35m	0.37m	0.30m	0.32m
BASE OF TRENCH	0.44m	0.46m	0.36m	0.37m	0.31m	0.32m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.



Figure 15 Trench 11

*Trench 11*

Orientation: E-W

Length: 12m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: As Trench 1

Subsoil: As Trench 1

Natural Substratum: As Trench 1

INTERVAL	(E) 0m	5m	10m	12m
TOPSOIL DEPTH	0.15m	0.16m	0.17m	0.17m
SUBSOIL DEPTH	0.17m	0.29m	0.24m	0.20m

<b>TOP OF NATURAL</b>	0.27m	0.45m	0.41m	0.37m
<b>BASE OF TRENCH</b>	0.27m	0.45m	0.41m	0.37m

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

## Conclusion

The land at Top Street, and Botts Lane, Appleby Magna had some potential for medieval house frontage remains due to its close location to the medieval village core of Appleby Magna. There was also a possibility that its location 600m to the East of the Roman Farmstead building (MLE8596; Clarke 2000; 2010), and a Roman road linking Watling Street, (MLE20490) may have provided evidence of Iron-age activity and Roman transitions in the rural settlement.

With the exception to a good example of medieval ridge and furrow recorded running north-west to south-east, no archaeological features were seen. Any Iron-age or Romano-British features which existed may have been destroyed by the furrows. These were excavated by machine but were found to be deep. Close to Top Street, a pond which existed during the 19th and early 20th century may have destroyed any surviving building remains. There was no artefactual evidence recovered.

## Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Persimmon Homes for their help and co-operation with this project. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work carried out by Andy Hyam and James Patrick.

The machines were supplied by Planters Ltd and were driven by Paul Harris.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

### *OASIS data entry*

Project Name	Top Street, Appleby Magna
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Andy Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF

Position in the Planning Process	Pre-planning enquiry
Site Co ordinates	SK 43170 30946
Start/end dates of field work	27-10-2015 to 28-10-2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	1 ha

### Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A117.2015

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 11 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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