



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological field evaluation at
Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna,
Leicestershire
(SK 31619 10103)

James Patrick



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Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire
(SK 31619 10103)**

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for

Keller Construction Ltd.

Checked by Project Manager

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 31619 10103).

The work was in advance of the construction of a single two storey detached house with double garage. Three trenches were excavated across the development footprint. The evaluation was to ascertain whether there was a continuation of archaeological remains in the form of linear features revealed in a previous evaluation in advance of a multi housing development directly to the North adjoining this site. These were identified as probable plot boundaries running east-west, with more ephemeral features potentially of agricultural origin mainly running north-south (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014)

No archaeological remains were identified in any of the three trenches. Only a plough furrow, was identified in trench 1. The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A21.2016.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Keller Construction Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation land at Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 31619 10103). This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment and addressed the *Brief for archaeological exploratory trial trenching. Land at Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire*

The site lies within the medieval core of Appleby Magna. It is also approximately 100 metres away from Old End, which is the nearest part of the Villages Conservation Area. Because the previous evaluation identified archaeological remains in the form of property boundary ditches (Jarvis, 2014), there was increased potential for the continuation of medieval archaeological remains.

Site Location, Details and Geology

The plot of land is on the east frontage of Measham Road. It is also bounded by the sunken road Stoney Lane to the South and lies north of the main village core of Appleby Magna. The site is currently on part of a garden of Wych Elms, Number 11, Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna. The site is rectangular covering an area of *c.* 0.12 hectares within which will be constructed a single dwelling with an associated double garage (Planning Refs: 15/00176/OUT). The site lies at a height of *c.* 87.8m aOD.

The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 155 shows the site to lie on mudstone and siltstone of the Tarpорley Siltstone Formation.

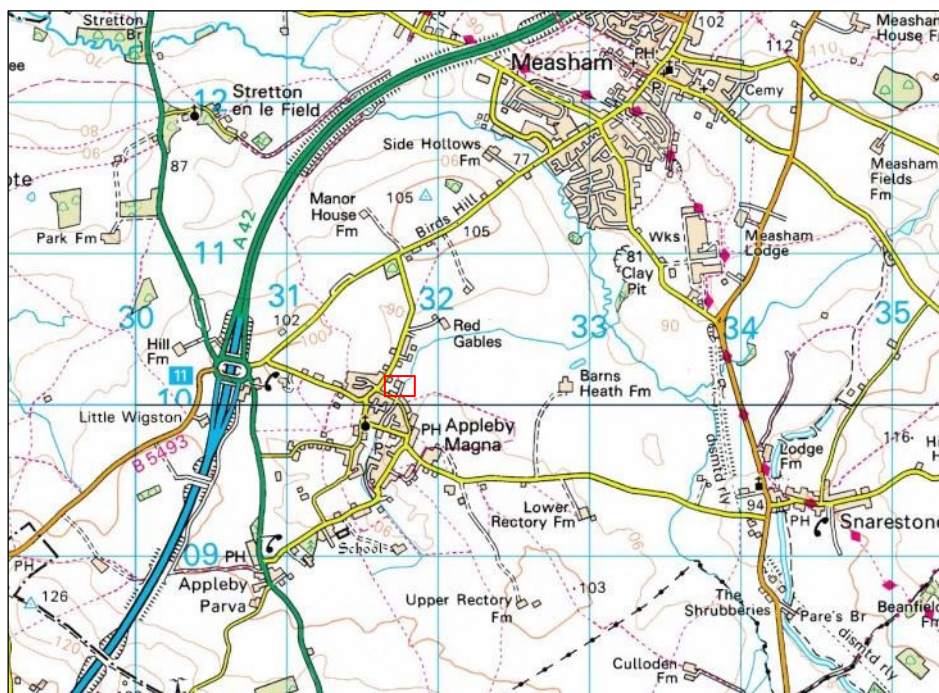


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment for adjacent areas have been undertaken for an adjacent area to the north and east (Bourn, 2012) The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application area is located within the historic core of the medieval village of Appleby Magna (MLE5992) and approximately 100 metres away from Old End, the nearest part of the Conservation Area. Appleby Magna has grown in size with new development since World War 2 and is continually increasing in size with new development. Consequently, archaeological remains were identified in the form of east to west medieval property boundary ditches with features of agricultural origin running north to south. This was revealed during an evaluation by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in advance of a multi housing development directly to the north of the present site, off Measham Road (Jarvis W., 2014). Further evaluation by University of Leicester Archaeological Services took place at Top Street and Bott's Lane over 400 metres away to the south of the site. Although in this case no archaeological remains were revealed, well preserved medieval ridge and furrow was noted and seen clearly seen on the surface (Patrick, 2015). On a wider field, the site lies to the south-east of the approximate 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). An evaluation and subsequent excavation of the site of a hotel on the east side of the nearby M42 junction, c. 600m to the west, has recorded a small 4th century Roman farmstead with a simple corn drier, possible threshing floors and a number of possible structures including a sunken featured building (MLE8596; Clarke 2010)

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

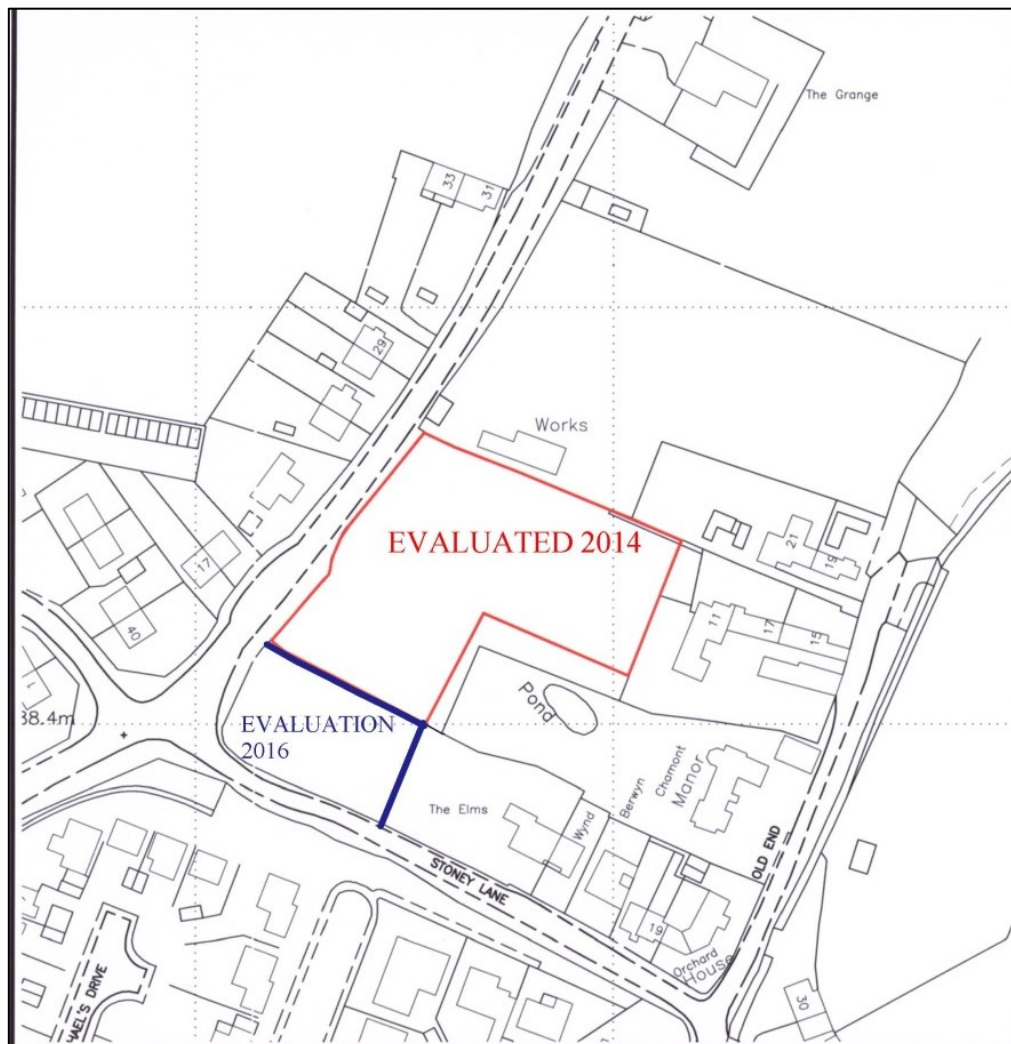


Figure 2: Location of application area on Measham Road, Appleby Magna.

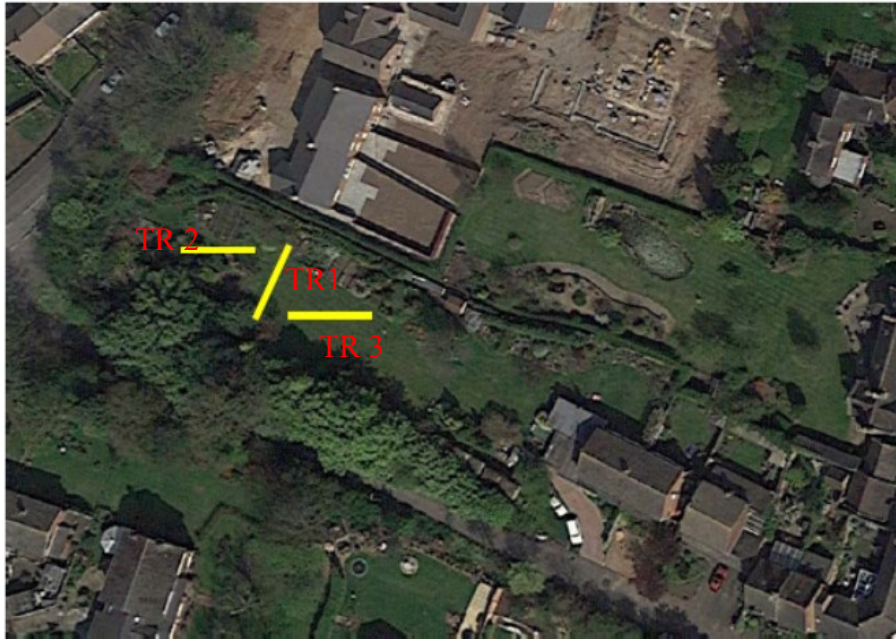


Figure 3: Trench locations

Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct*(2010) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2010). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work* (WSI) prepared by ULAS.

The WSI asked for three 10m x 1.60m (1.90m bucket used) trenches equating to a total of 57 square metres. This accounted to a c. 5% sample of the c. 0.12ha (1,100 sq m) of the area.



Figure 4: Site area, looking north.

Results

The trenches were excavated by a JCB tracked excavator with a 1.90m ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording the trenches were backfilled. Prior to the evaluation, extensive vegetation including felled trees had to be cleared from the site. The trenches were positioned in each proposed location. The former garden had topsoil which consisted of a dark yellowish brown friable silty loam with sparse rounded pebbles with a maximum depth of 0.30m. Across site, the subsoil varied from light yellow brown to mid orangish brown and consisted of plasticky silty clay. This was generally deeper than the top soil with an average depth of 0.40 and of an alluvial nature. Under this lay the natural sub-stratum, consisting of red clay. with extensive areas of gravel in all three trenches. Despite Medieval property boundary ditches being identified prior to the previous development to the North, no further Archaeological features were identified. Only a south-west to north-east furrow was revealed in trench 1.

Trench 01

Orientation: South-west to North-east

Length: 10m

Width: 1.9m

Topsoil: Mid yellowish brown, friable silty clay with sparse small rounded pebbles.

Subsoil: Mid reddish brown, soft silty clay with sparse small rounded

Natural Substratum: Light red brown silty clay and gravel within red sandy clay matrix.

Interval	SW 0m	2.50m	5m	7.5m	10m
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.25m	0.15m	0.20m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.50m	0.45m	0.35m	0.40m	0.40m
Top of natural	0.75m	0.70m	0.50m	Furrow	Furrow
Base of Trench	0.90m	0.80m	0.50m	0.60m	0.65m



Figure 5: Trench 1 looking north



Figure 6: Furrow in trench 1, looking north-west

No archaeological features were identified. Following investigation at the north-east end of the trench, a furrow was present. This was traced faintly into the east end of trench 2.

Trench 02

Orientation: West to east

Length: 10m

Width: 1.9m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish brown, friable loam with sparse small rounded pebbles and coal flecks

Subsoil: Light yellowish brown, soft silty clay with sparse small rounded pebbles and coal flecks.

Natural Substratum: Light orange/ grey clayey fine sand with extensive areas of gravel.

Interval	W 0m	2.50m	5m	7.5m	10m
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.30m	0.28m	0.26m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.65m	0.36m	0.50m	0.50m	0.60m
Top of natural	0.95m	0.66m	0.78m	0.76m	0.90m
Base of Trench	0.95m	0.80m	0.78m	0.76m	0.90m



Figure 7: Trench 2, looking West

No archaeological remains were present

Trench 03

Orientation: West to east

Length: 10m

Width: 1.9m

Topsoil: Mid yellowish brown, friable loam with sparse small rounded pebbles and coal flecks

Subsoil: Mid orangish brown, plasticky silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and sparse coal flecks.

Natural Substratum: Light red brown sandy clay with extensive areas of gravel in a light orange brown sandy clay matrix.

Interval	W 0m	2.50m	5m	7.5m	10m
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.30m	0.25m	0.30m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.35m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m
Top of natural	0.60m	0.60m	0.65m	0.70m	0.55m
Base of Trench	0.60m	0.66m	0.65m	0.70m	0.70m



Figure 8: Trench 3, looking West

No archaeological remains were present

Conclusion

Despite the series of linear features identified during the previous evaluation directly north of and adjoining this site, no archaeological remains were identified in any of the three trenches other than a furrow at the north end of trench 1 which ran parallel to

an east to west ridge seen on the surface of the garden . The site lies directly north of Stoney Lane, a sunken road. The site is then demarcated by an east to west boundary from the recent developments and the east to west property boundary ditches found during the evaluation (Jarvis 2014). It is possible the present boundary may have been in existence in the past, perhaps as a ditch marking a boundary between the medieval building plots.

Bibliography

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Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Keller Construction Ltd. for their co-operation with this project. Also thanks to Mr Bill Turk for driving the excavator. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author also of ULAS.

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	Stoney Lane, Appleby Magna
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P. Clay
Project Supervisor	J Patrick
Previous/Future work	Evaluation

Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	New Housing
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Requirement (PA 15/00176/OUT)
Site Co ordinates	SK 31619 10103
Start/end dates of field work	11/02/2016
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Study Area	0.12ha

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A21.2016

The archive consists of the following:

- 3 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Photo Record sheet
- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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