



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on
Land South of 40, Measham Road,
Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK
31621 10293)**

James Patrick



ULAS Report No 2016-072
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**An archaeological field evaluation on land south of 40,
Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire
(SK 31621 10293)**

James Patrick

for

David Jones and Alexander Bruce Estates Ltd.

P.A 14/00595/OUT

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



Date: 18.04.2016

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Accession Number: X.A 49.2016

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**An archaeological field evaluation on land south of 40,
Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire
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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land south of 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 31621 10293).

The work was in advance of the construction of four detached dwellings and garaging, including two self-build units. Directly to the south-east of the construction area the ground is to be left undeveloped and will remain as a paddock for agricultural or equestrian use. Four trenches were proposed; one across each of the four dwellings footprints. The fifth trench was placed across a proposed access area. However due very soft ground, all the trenches were altered and positioned east to west along the top of each of the five ridges while avoiding the furrows. Previous archaeological work undertaken immediately to the south of the study area identified probable medieval plot boundaries running east-west, with more ephemeral features potentially of agricultural origin mainly running north-south. The evaluation identified a continuation of the archaeological deposits into this field including east to west plot boundaries and a north to south ditch. All were heavily truncated. The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A.49.2016.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by David Jones and Alexander Bruce Estates Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land South of 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 31621 10293). This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment and was a first stage to address the requirements of Conditions 14-15 of the outline planning permission (P.A 14/00595/OUT). The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (hereinafter WSI; ULAS 12.02.2016) approved by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as historic environment advisors to North-West Leicestershire District Council.

As shown by the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), the application area lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Appleby Magna (**MLE 5992**). It is also approximately 100 metres away from Old End, which is the nearest part of the Village Conservation Area. An earlier evaluation immediately to the south of the study area identified archaeological remains in the form of east to west plot boundary ditches (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014), there was

potential for the continuation of these medieval archaeological remains. An evaluation carried out in February 2016 to the south at the junction of Stoney Lane and Measham Road, Appleby Magna revealed no archaeological remains (Patrick 2016).

Site Location, Details and Geology

The application area is situated along the eastern frontage of Measham Road to the north of the main village core of Appleby Magna which is located *c.* 1.5 kilometres east of the M42 and A444 junction. Access onto the site is up a steep bank on the east side of Measham Road. Due to the potentially dangerous action of machine excavating the steep bank for access to the field on the road, the excavator was driven carefully on just one occasion down Old End, a private road. The bank was then levelled out to a suitable gradient under archaeological supervision, for improved access. The site is currently on un-cultivated arable land which has recently been cleared of vegetation. Along the southern side of the field alongside a hedgerow at the north-west end is a large shed formerly used as a joinery workshop with an associated large brick built shed formerly used for storage. Both structures are in a poor state of repair awaiting demolition. The site is bounded on all sides by fences, hedgerows and mature trees and is situated directly to the south of 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna. The site is roughly rectangular in shape covering an area of *c.* 0.12 hectares within which will be constructed four detached dwellings with associated garages and two self-build units. Approximately half of the site will remain undeveloped and will be used either as equestrian or agricultural use. (Planning Refs: 14/00595/OUT). The site lies at a maximum height of *c.* 99.8m aOD on the north-western side sloping down slightly to the south-east to a height of *c.* 97.2maOD

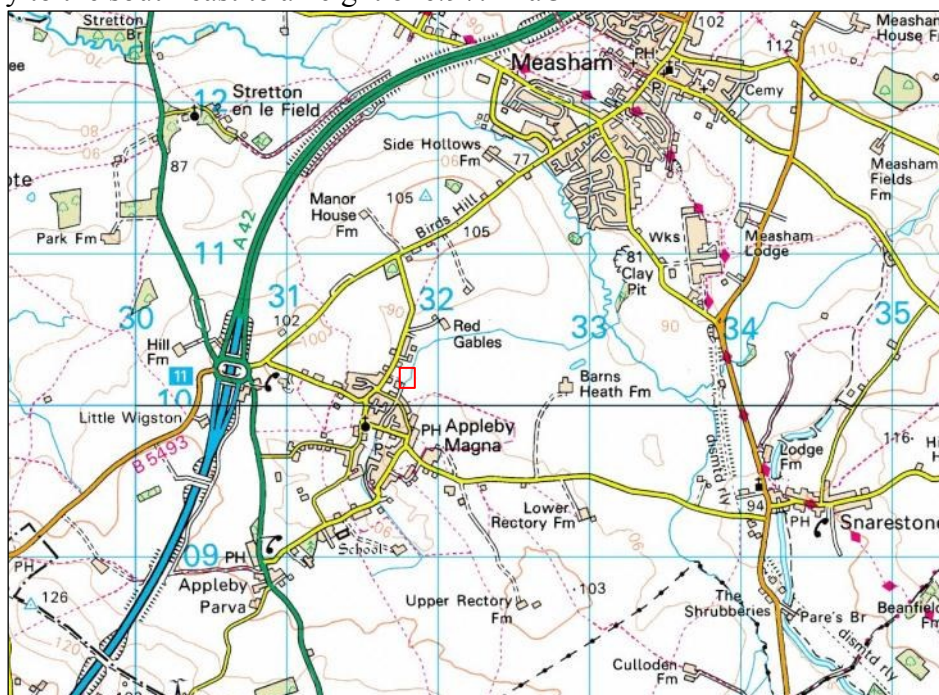


Figure 1: Site Location

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The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 155 shows the site to lie on mudstone and siltstone of the Tarporley Siltstone Formation. Alluvial deposits are recorded to the eastern edge of the site. No superficial geology is recorded.

Historical and Archaeological Background

Although not recorded on the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) ridge and furrow earthworks are present within the application area aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. A desk-based assessment had been undertaken for adjacent areas to the south 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. The nearest scheduled monument to the application area is a moated site, associated fish ponds, formal gardens, and settlement earthworks along the south side of Mawbys Lane 400 metres south of the site. To the east of the monument was an extensive field system and adjoining medieval village remains. A watching brief within the moat house during interior building alterations revealed earlier stone walling below a present Tudor brick wall (Patrick 2006). Appleby Magna has grown in size since World War 2 and continues to increase in size with new development. As a result historic mapping and archaeological investigation with associated development to the south has revealed archaeological remains identified in the form of east to west medieval boundary plot 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 south of the present site, again off Measham Road (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014). However no archaeological remains were identified further south at the junction of Measham Road and Stoney Lane (Patrick 2016) or at Top Street and Bott's Lane c. 400 metres to the south of the site (Patrick 2015).

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**; Margary 1955). 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 corn drier, possible threshing floors and a number of possible structures including a sunken featured building (**MLE8596**; Clarke 2010).

Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The archaeological evaluation was identified as having the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)

There are Roman sites within the study area including enclosures and a Roman road.

The evaluations may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman and Roman-Saxon transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

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

The evaluation may 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*.

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.

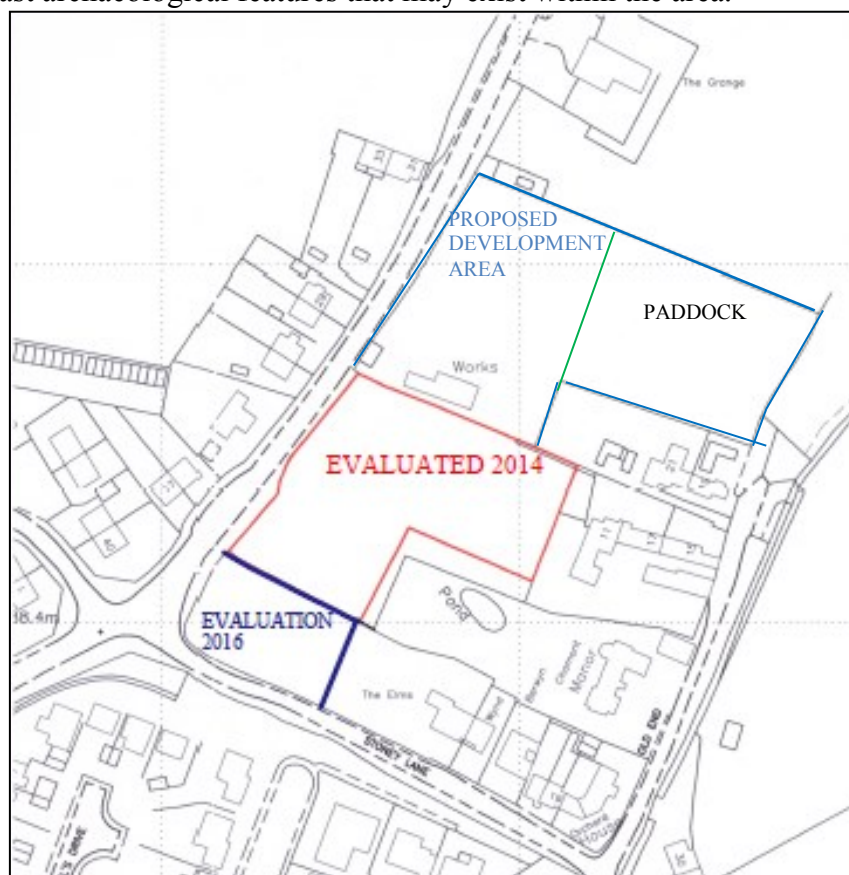


Figure 2: Location of application area on Measham Road, Appleby Magna.

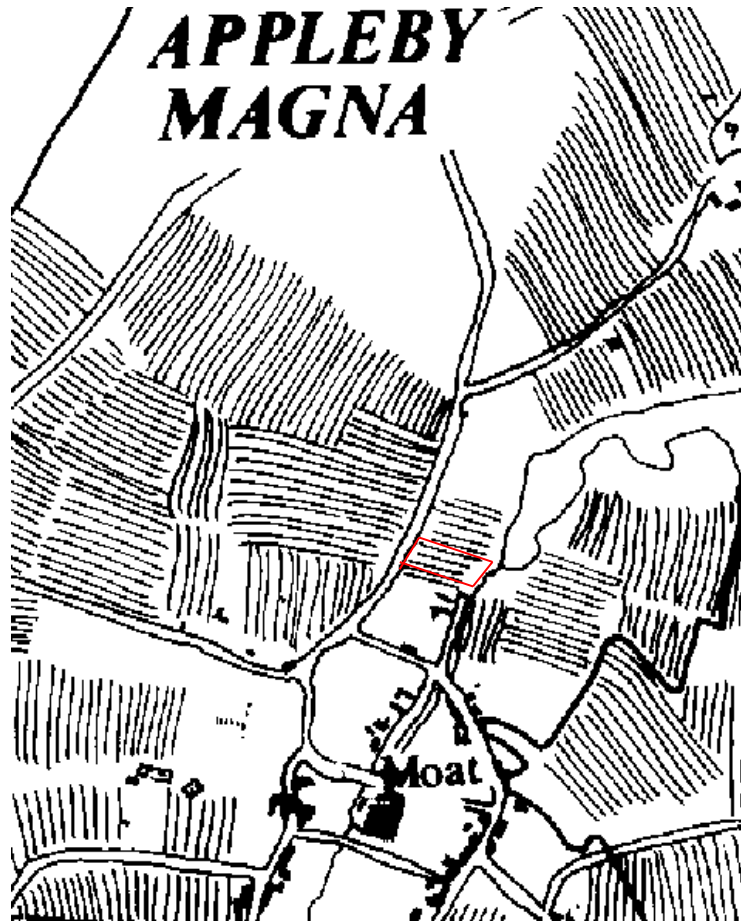


Figure 3: Medieval ridge and furrow plotted from vertical aerial photographs with development area highlighted (From Hartley 1984, 63 map 12).



Figure 4: Original Trench locations (taken from WSI)

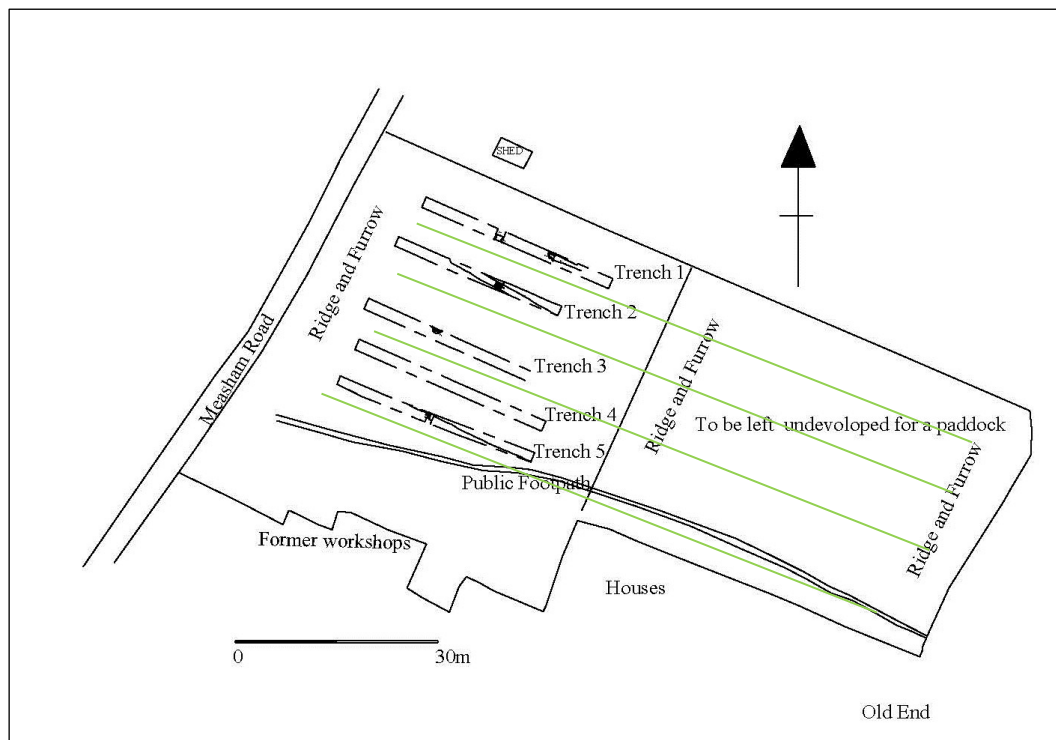


Figure 5: Actual trench locations

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014b) and adhered to the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).

The WSI proposed five 30m x 1.60m trenches targeting the proposed locations of the new dwellings and access area. This equated to a total of 240 square metres. The trench locations were modified in view of the ground conditions to be placed along the tops of ridges (Figure 5).



Figure 6: Application area prior to evaluation, looking West.

Results

The trenches were excavated by a JCB wheeled excavator with a 1.60m ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording, the trenches were backfilled. Prior to the evaluation, vegetation including felled trees had been cleared from the site. All of the trenches were re-positioned due very soft ground conditions caused by the recent mild wet winter. A proposed trench (number 6) was attempted but abandoned approximately half way due to severe difficulties with the excavator becoming stuck in a furrow. Therefore all the five trenches were orientated north-west to south east along the tops of the ridges.

The evaluation identified three ditches [04], [01], & [09] orientated parallel with the ridges in trenches 1, 2, & 5. These may be a continuation of the medieval boundary plot ditches identified during archaeological work directly to the South (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014). Trench 1 also revealed a north-east to south-west orientated ditch [02] possibly comparable to the earlier ephemeral ditches found to the south interpreted as ditches of agricultural origin although this ditch contained no pottery. Trench 3 revealed a shallow pit [07]. All features were heavily truncated and sealed by the sub-soil and topsoil of the medieval plough ridge. Trenches 4 and the abandoned trench 6 were negative.

Trench 01

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 32m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish grey, friable silty-clay-loam with sparse small rounded pebbles.

Subsoil: Mid orange-brown, friable silty-clay with sparse small rounded

Natural Substratum: Light red brown clay to mixed red clay/ orange brown sandy-silt
& gravel.

| Interval | NW 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 32m |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.20 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.20 |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.20 | 0.36 | 0.22 | 0.26 | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.18 |
| Top of natural | 0.45 | 0.64 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.60 | 0.55 | 0.38 |
| Base of Trench | 0.45 | 0.64 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.60 | 0.55 | 0.38 |



Figure 7: Trench 1 looking north-west



Figure 8: Shallow ditch [03] in trench 1, looking south



Figure 9: Shallow boundary plot ditch in Trench 1, looking south-west

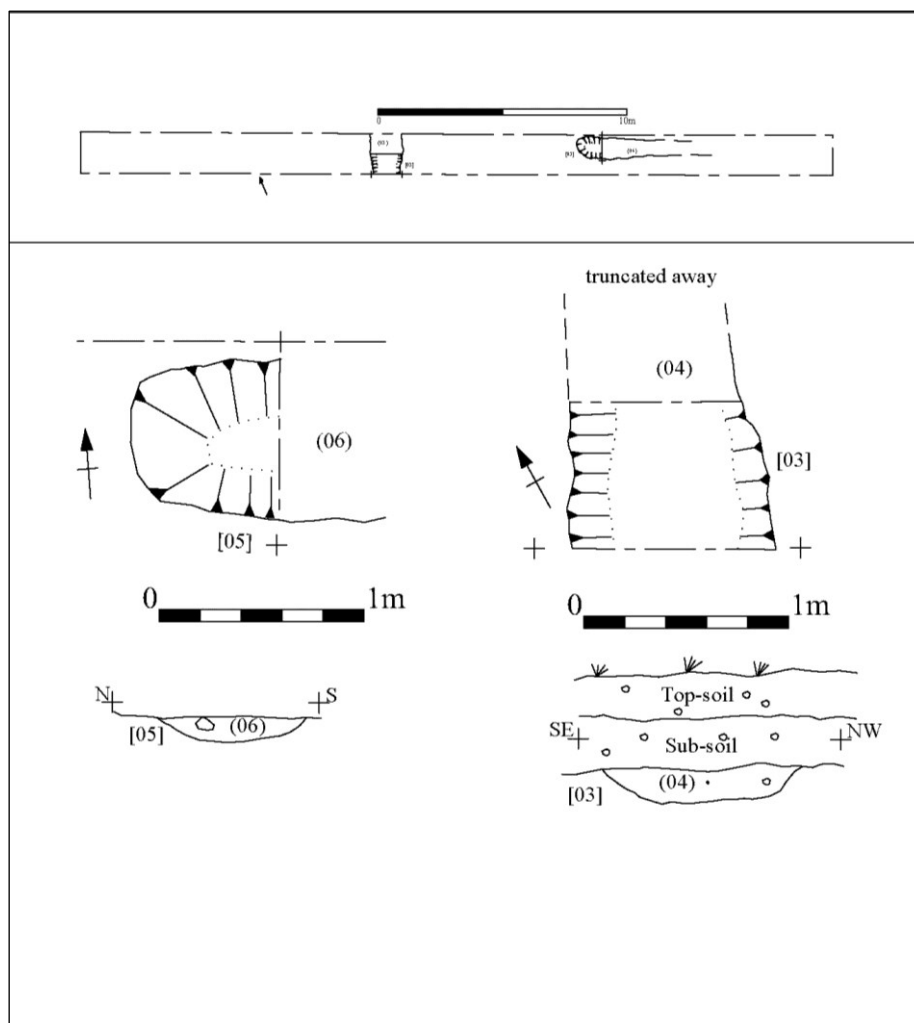


Figure 10: Archaeological features in Trench 1

Contexts: [03] (04), [05] (06)

Two archaeological features were identified in Trench 1. Linear feature [05] was orientated north-west to south-east and appeared to terminate towards the south-east. Although well defined in plan it was heavily truncated with shallow sides with a depth of just 0.14m onto a flat base while having a width of 0.74m. It contained a single fill (06) which consisted of a light yellow brown soft clayey-silt with sparse small rounded pebbles. This linear feature bears more resemblance to an earlier furrow than a ditch running under the ridge. More convincing is ditch [03] which runs south-west to north-east across the trench width. This had straight shallow sloping sides with a depth of 0.16m onto a concaved base with a width of 1.0m. The single fill (04) was of a light yellowish brown friable sandy silt. The ditch was not seen to continue into trench 2 although it may run into and probably cut by ditch [01].

Trench 02

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 25m

Width: 1.60m

Topsoil: Mid grey-brown, with friable loam clayey-silt. Contains sparse small rounded pebbles and coal flecks.

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown soft clayey-silt with sparse small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Natural Substratum: Red clay and mid yellow brown sandy-silt with gravel

| Interval | NW 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.31 | 0.26 | 0.48 | 0.18 |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.18 | 0.15 | 0.21 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.27 |
| Top of natural | 0.44 | 0.41 | 0.52 | 0.46 | 0.38 | 0.40 |
| Base of Trench | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.61 | 0.55 | 0.48 | 0.50 |



Figure 3: Trench 2, looking west



Figure 4: Linear feature [1] in Trench 2, looking west

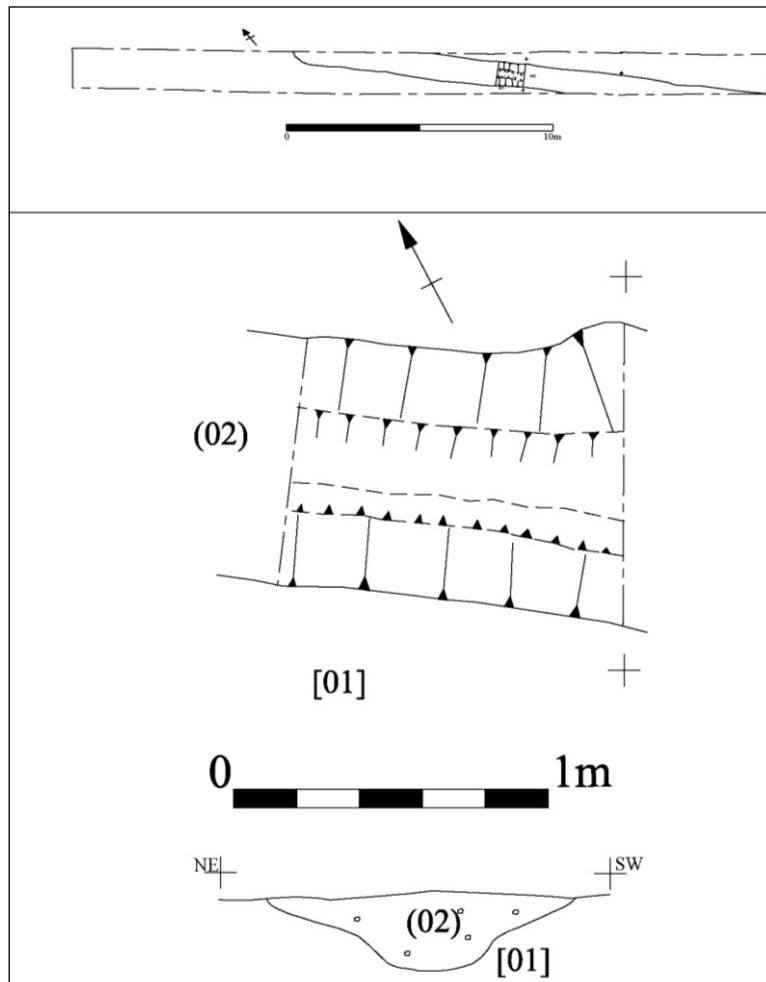


Figure 5: Plan and section of linear feature [1] in Trench 2

Contexts: [01], (02)

A single north-west to south-east orientated ditch [01] was located in Trench 2 (Figure 13). This appeared to run parallel to ditch [05] in trench 1 and [09] in trench 5. However this ditch varied in depth and profile to [05] becoming steeper towards its flat base with a depth of 0.25m. With a width of *c.* 0.95m it appears to have been a substantial boundary plot ditch. The single fill was a light greyish/ reddish brown soft clayey-silt with sparse rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Trench 03

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 27m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish grey, friable silty-clay-loam with sparse small rounded pebbles.

Subsoil: Mid orangish brown, friable silty-clay with sparse small rounded

Natural Substratum: Light red brown clay to mixed red clay/ orange brown sandy-silt & gravel.

| Interval | SW 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 27m |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.20 |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.10 | 0.14 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.10 |
| Top of natural | 0.38 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.30 |
| Base of Trench | 0.38 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.45 | 0.48 | 0.30 |



Figure 6: Trench 3, looking south-east

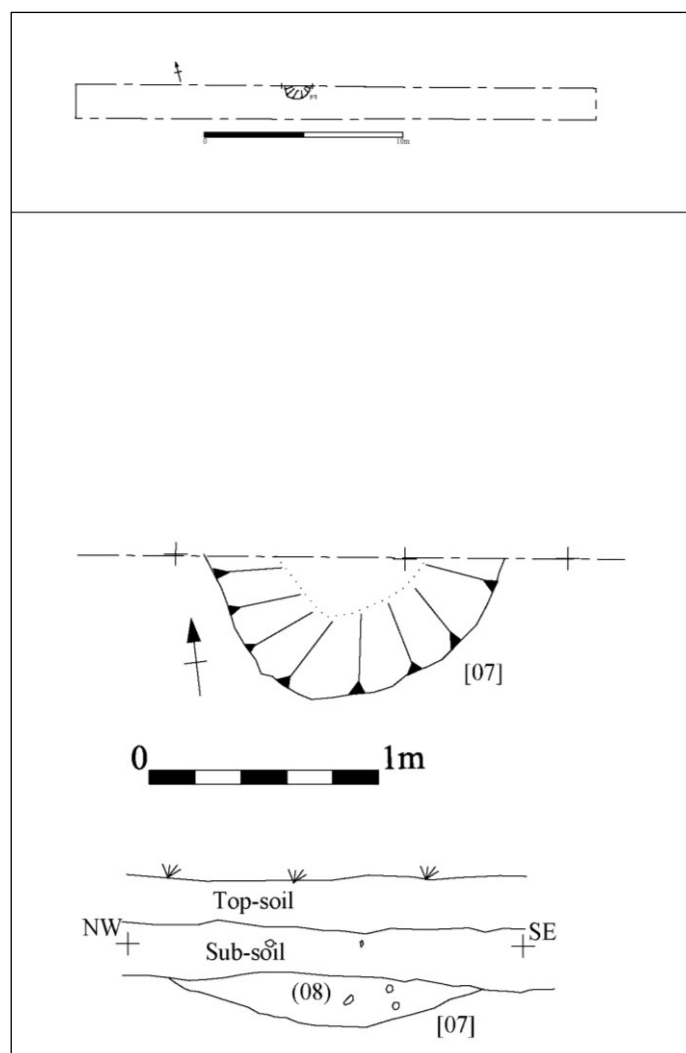


Figure 7: Feature [07] in Trench 3

Contexts: [07] (08)

A heavily truncated pit [07] was located at the north side of the trench. The pit had shallow sloping sides with a depth of 0.20m onto a concave base. The single fill was consistent with the other features appearing to be primary silting. The fill (08) was of a mid yellowish grey soft silty-clay with occasional small rounded pebbles with a width *c.* 1.30m.

Trench 04

Orientation: North-west to south- east

Length: 28m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish grey, friable silty-clay-loam with sparse small rounded pebbles.

Subsoil: Mid orangish brown, friable silty-clay with sparse small rounded

Natural Substratum: Mid orange brown silty-clay with moderate pebbles

| Interval | SW 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 25m | 28m |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.20 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.24 | 0.30 |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.26 | 0.13 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.10 |
| Top of natural | 0.46 | 0.43 | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.44 | 0.38 | 0.40 |
| Base of Trench | 0.46 | 0.43 | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.44 | 0.18 | 0.40 |



Figure 8: Trench 4, looking south-east

No Archaeological remains were identified.

Trench 05

Orientation: North-west to south-east

Length: 30m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Mid greyish brown, with friable loam clayey silt. Contains sparse small rounded pebbles and coal flecks.

Subsoil: Mid yellowish brown, with soft clayey silt with sparse small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Natural Substratum: Red clay and mid yellow brown sandy silt with gravel



Figure 9: Trench 5, looking south- east

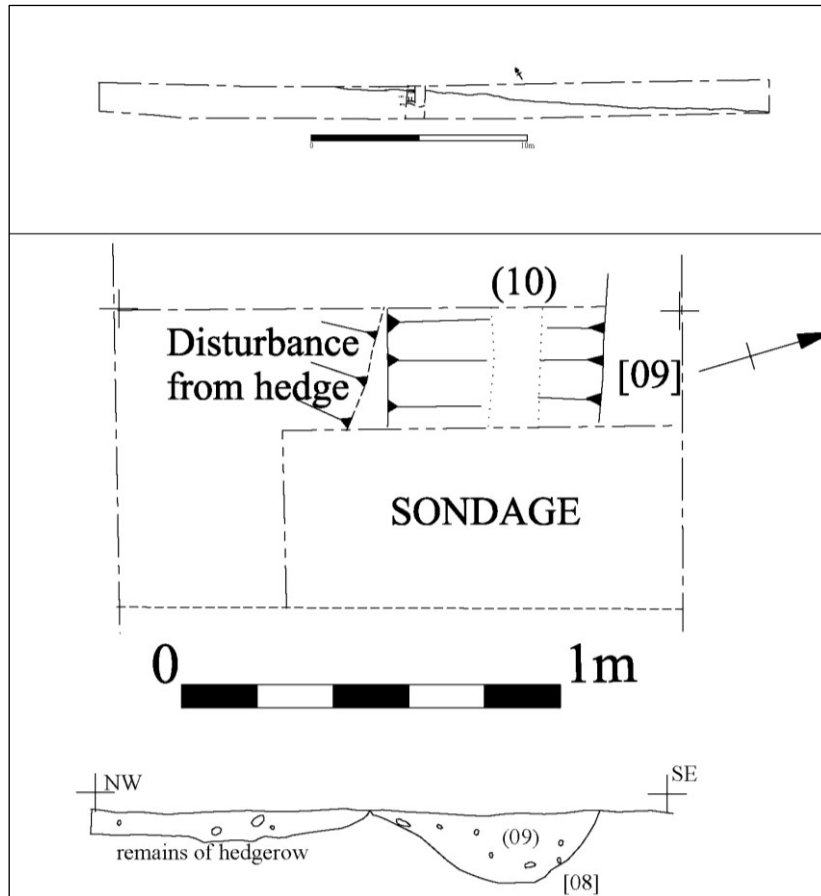


Figure 10: Ditch [09] in Trench 5

Contexts: [08] (09)

A single north-west to south-east orientated ditch [09] was revealed and probably represents another medieval boundary plot ditch running roughly parallel to [01] in Trench 2 and the much truncated [05] in Trench 1. It appears to have been truncated by an old hedgerow ditch running east to west. The ditch had steep sides with a depth of 0.20m onto a flat base with a width of 0.60m. The single fill (10) is of a light brownish grey soft clayey-silt with frequent small rounded pebbles. A single body sherd (7g) of Midland Purple ware (Leicestershire Medieval Pot fabric MP2) was recovered from [9] (10) indicating a date of 1375-1550 (identification by Nicholas Cooper).

Trench 06

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Length: 13m

Width: 1.6m

Topsoil: Dark yellowish brown, with friable silty-clay-loam containing sparse small rounded pebbles .

Subsoil: Mid orange brown, with soft silty-clay with sparse small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Natural Substratum: Red brown silty clay

| Interval | NE 0m | 5m | 10m | 13m |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.18 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 0.18 |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.13 |
| Top of natural | 0.40 | 0.42 | 0.36 | 0.31 |
| Base of Trench | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.32 |



Figure 11: Trench 6, looking south-west

The excavation of this ditch was terminated after 13 m due to ground conditions. No archaeological deposits were present.

Conclusion

Three north-west to south-east ditches were identified during the evaluation. The ditches appear to represent a continuation of a series of east to west boundary plot ditches identified during Archaeological work immediately to the south. Also identified was a north to south ditch also comparable to similar oriented ditches of earlier agricultural origin found to the south of the present application area (Jarvis 2014). A well preserved example of north-west to south-east medieval ridge and furrow was clearly evident on the site. Each of the three ditches were identified running under three of the five visible ridges, sealed by the sub-soil (medieval plough-soil). The boundary plot ditches appear to run perpendicular to the frontage, (now the present partially sunken Measham Road), similar to the ditches located directly to the south (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014). Due to constraints caused by poor drainage of the site, all of the trenches were re-located along the tops of the ridges avoiding the furrows so therefore no evidence could be gathered on the ditches return to form the back of the boundary plot.

While pottery evidence was found in the area directly to south, only one sherd of pottery was found within ditch [09] (10) in trench 5. However what this site also has in common with the previous evaluation is that no comparative occupational evidence was found. The evidence suggests that the village had shrunken with later ridge and furrow overlying the plot boundary ditches. This is known elsewhere for example at at Barton Blount, Derbyshire, where excavations identified ridge and furrow over former house areas (Beresford 1975).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Georgina Shipley of Shipley planning for arranging access for this project. Also thanks Richard Huxley for his assistance during the evaluation and to Paul Harris of Planters plant hire 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.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A 49.2016

The archive consists of the following:

- 6 Trench recording sheets
- 10 context record sheets
- 4 indice record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 CD digital report
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photograph

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15-04-2016

Appendix 1 OASIS Information

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| PROJECT DETAILS | Oasis No | universi1-xxxx |
| | Project Name | An Archaeological Evaluation on land south of 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire |
| | Start/end dates of field work | 06-02-2016 |
| | Previous/Future Work | Further recording (strip, map and sample excavation) |
| | Project Type | Evaluation |
| | Site Status | None |
| | Current Land Use | Rough pasture |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Monument Type/Period | None/none | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | Medieval | | |
| | Development Type | Residential | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | NPPF | | |
| | Position in the Planning Process | Planning Condition | | |
| | Planning Ref. | P.A. 14/00595/OUT | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | Site Address/Postcode | 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, DE12 7BN | | |
| | Study Area | 1.2 ha | | |
| | Site Coordinates | SK 31621 10293 | | |
| | Height OD | c 60m OD | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | Organisation | ULAS | | |
| | Project Brief Originator | Local Planning Authority | | |
| | Project Design Originator | ULAS | | |
| | Project Manager | Patrick Clay | | |
| | Project Director/Supervisor | James Patrick | | |
| | Sponsor/Funding Body | Developer : David Jones and Alexander Bruce Estates Ltd | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | | Physical | Digital | Paper |
| | Recipient | NA | LCC | LCC |
| | ID (Acc. No.) | | A49-2016 | A9 2015 |
| | Contents | | Photos Survey data | Fieldwork records Field Notes |
| PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY | Type | Grey Literature (unpublished) | | |
| | Title | An Archaeological Evaluation on land south of 40, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire | | |
| | Author | Stephen Baker | | |
| | Other bibliographic details | ULAS Report No 2016-072 | | |
| | Date | 2016 | | |
| | Publisher/Place | University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester | | |
| | Description | Developer Report A4 pdf | | |



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