



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on
Land West of Measham Road,
Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 317
103)**

James Patrick



ULAS Report No 2016-093
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**An archaeological field evaluation on land west of
Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire
(SK 317 103)**

James Patrick

for

Mulberry Homes Ltd.

P.A 15/00778/OUT

Checked by Project Manager

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An archaeological field evaluation on land west of

Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire

(SK 317 103)

James Patrick

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land west of Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 317 103).

The work was in advance of the construction of 39 detached and semi-detached dwellings of varying sizes with associated garaging and access road. The north-western half of the field is to be left undeveloped while in the north-eastern corner of the field, an attenuation basin is to be excavated. Twenty two trenches were proposed across the housing development area and attenuation basin. A number of trenches were altered due the presence of a probable east to west service as indicated by the geophysical survey (Prestidge 2013). The geophysical survey had identified north-west to south-east aligned linear anomalies. The evaluation showed these anomalies to be furrows, also identified at the far south of the field running north-east to south-west (see figure 3), with the different furrow orientations divided by a later field enclosure ditch. The evaluation proved largely negative with exception to an isolated pit in trench 5 in the extreme west of the site. The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A.69.2016.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mulberry Homes Ltd. to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land west of Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 317 103). 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 15/00778/OUT). The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (hereinafter WSI; ULAS 27.04.2016) approved by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as historic environment advisors to North-West Leicestershire District Council.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application area is located north of 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. Earlier evaluations east of Measham Road, almost opposite and just south-east of the study area identified archaeological remains in the form of south-east to north-west plot boundary ditches (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014; Patrick 2016). The geophysical survey (Prestidge 2013)

showed linear anomalies running south-east to north-west, along the length of the field suggesting furrows.

Site Location, Details and Geology

The application area is situated along the western 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 via a farm gate of the west side of Measham Road. The site is currently on un-cultivated arable land, now under long grass. The site is bounded on the north and west by agricultural land. Measham Road bounds the eastern side with modern housing forming the southern boundary. The field is roughly rectangular in shape; this covers a total area of *c.* 4.20 hectares of which *c.* 2.36 hectares (the southern half of field) will be developed. This will include the construction of 39 detached and semi-detached dwellings, associated garages, and access road including an attenuation basin (Planning Refs: 14/00595/OUT). The site lies at a maximum height of *c.* 90m at the west end of the field with a very slight east facing slope. The Geological Survey of England & Wales, Sheet 155 shows the site to lie on mudstone and siltstone of the Tarporely Siltstone Formation.

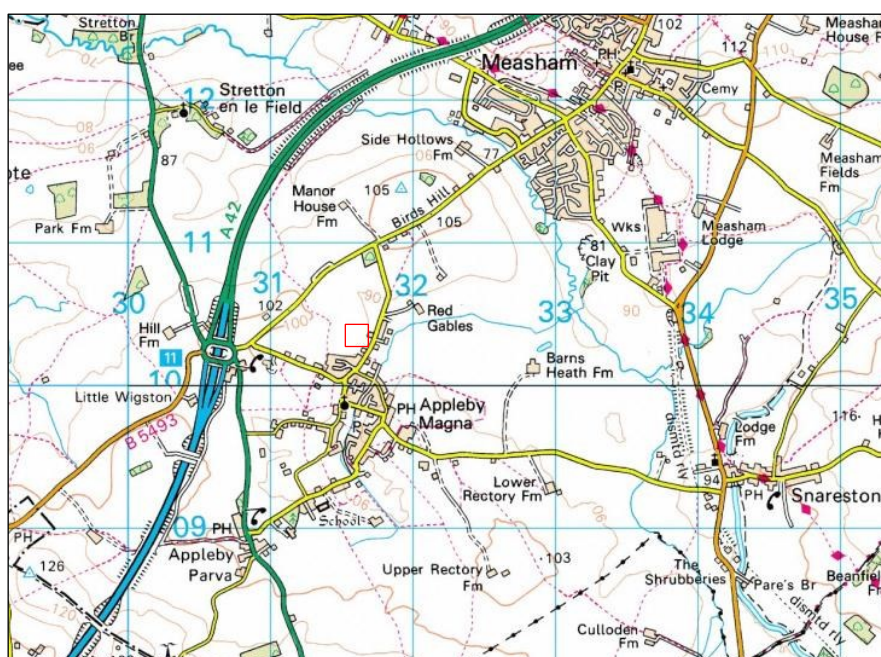


Figure 1: Site Location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment had been undertaken for the area (Bourn 2012). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application area is located to the north of 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 450 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 with further development to meet the present housing shortage. As a result, historic mapping and archaeological investigation has revealed archaeological remains in the form of south-east to north-west medieval boundary plot ditches with features of agricultural origin running north to south. This was revealed during two previous evaluations by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in advance of a multi housing development opposite to, and just south-east of the present site, fronting the east side of Measham Road (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014; Patrick 2016).

The site 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**; 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 vicinity 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.

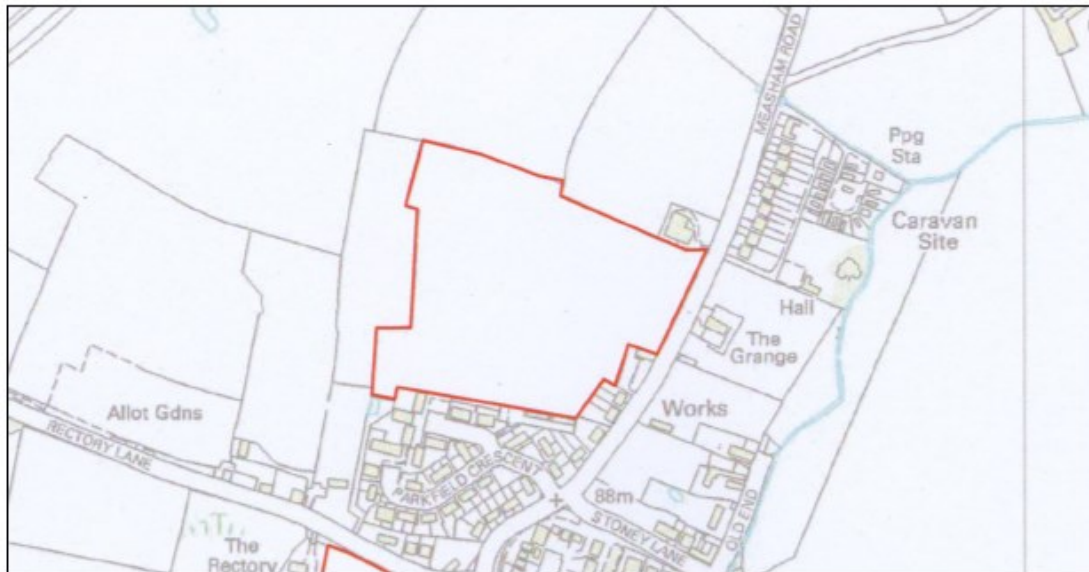


Figure 2: Location of application area

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 a *c.* 5% sample of the 2.36 hectare area equated to twenty two 30 m x 1.80m trenches covering the proposed locations of the new dwellings, access areas, and attenuation basin. This covered an approximate total of 1,180 square metres. Some trench locations were modified in view of a probable service trench as interpreted by the geophysical results (Figure 4).

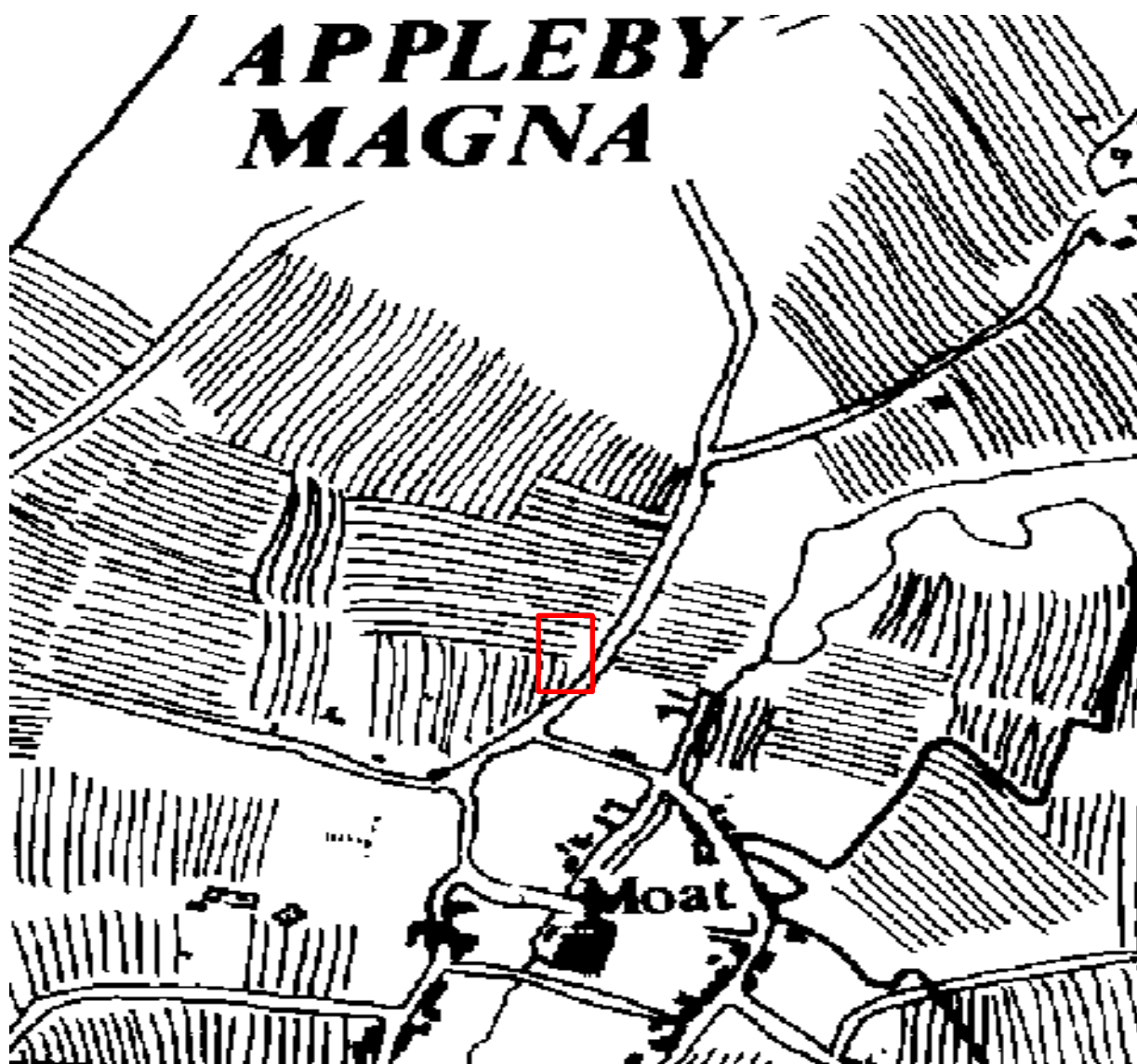


Figure 3: Medieval ridge and furrow.

Plotted from vertical aerial photographs with development area highlighted (From
Hartley 1984, 63 map 12).

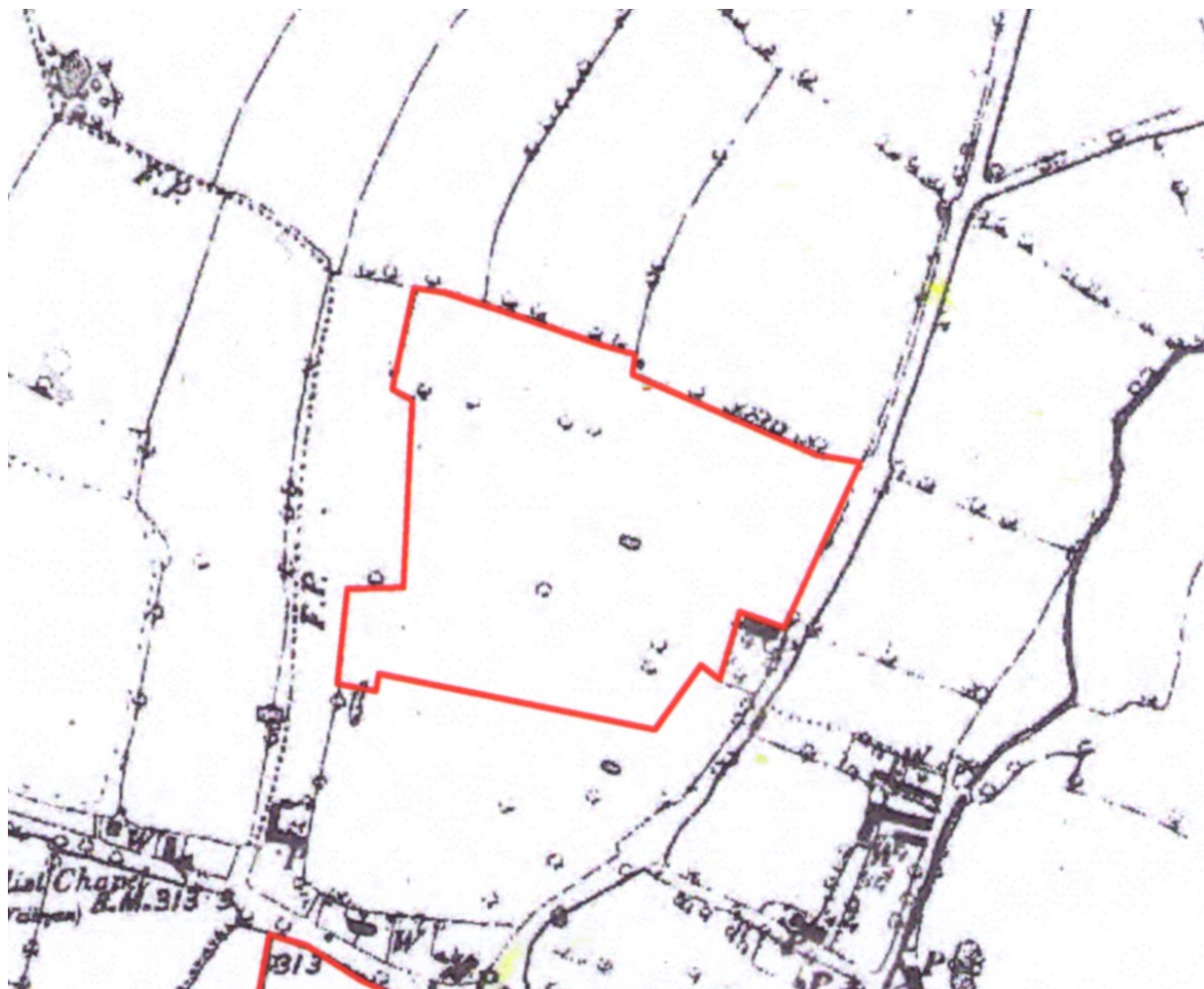


Figure 4: 1884 First edition map showing development area.

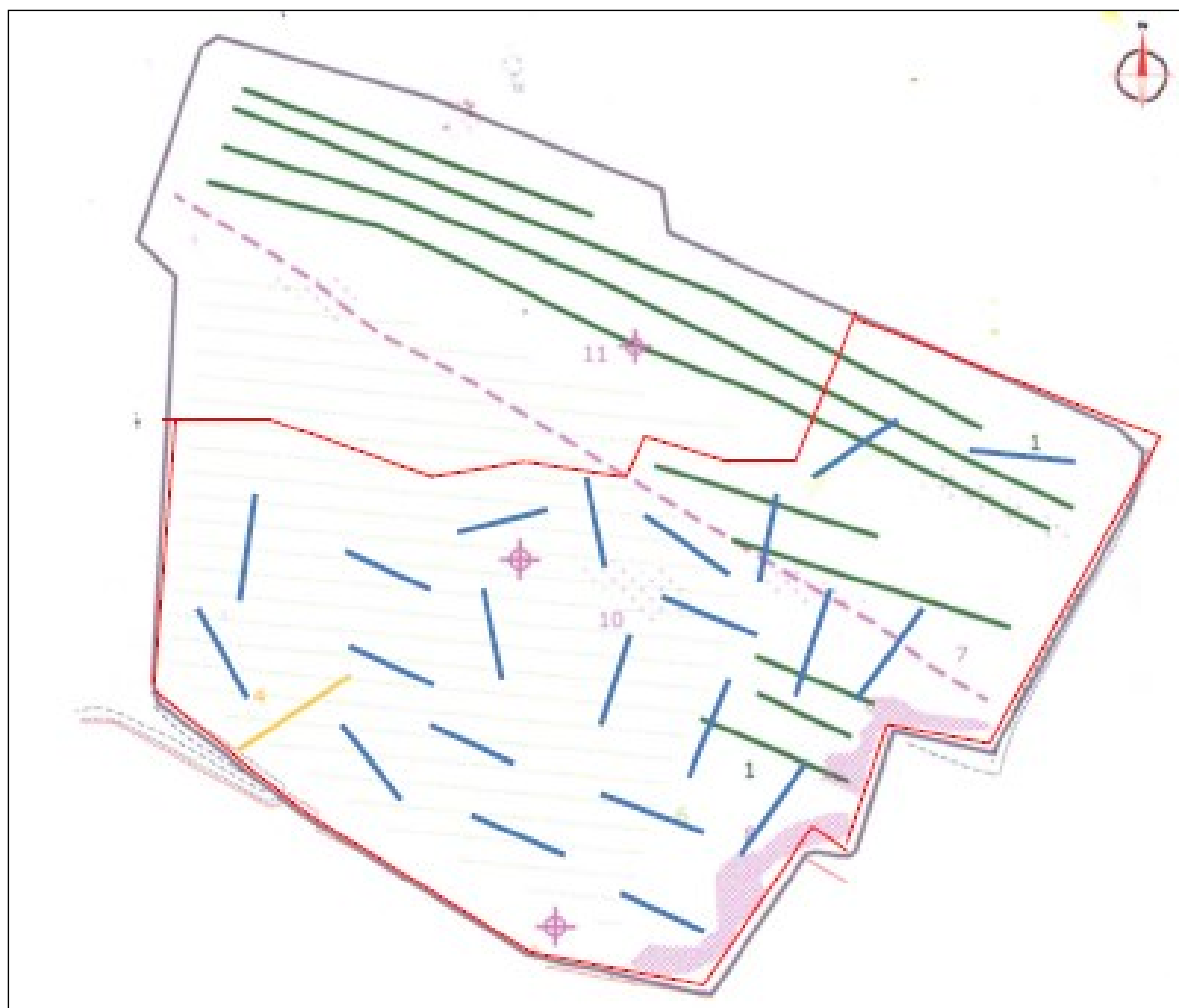


Figure 5: Original Trench locations (blue) showing geophysical survey results (taken from WSI). Key: Green: anomalies interpreted as ridge and furrow: yellow: possible cut feature of archaeological origin; Purple: modern disturbance/service

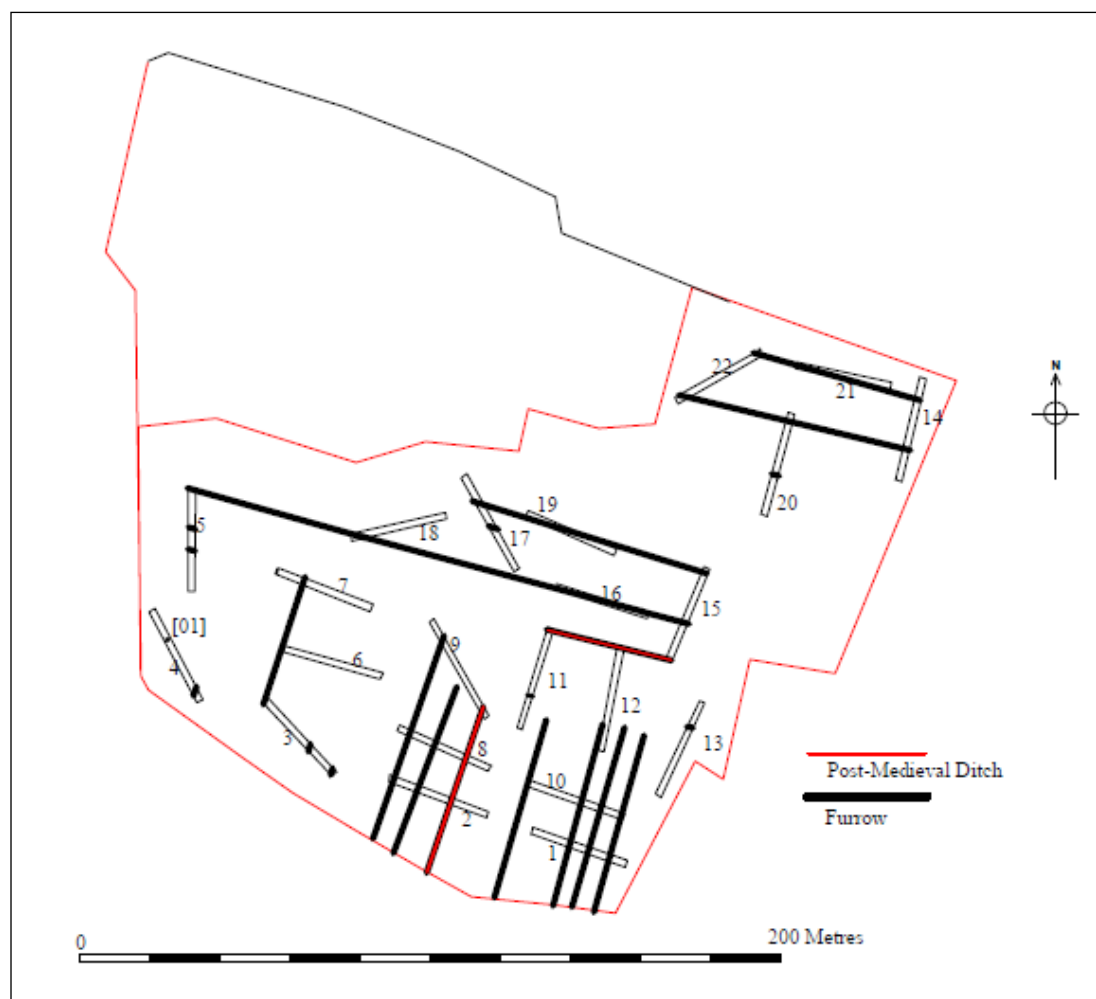


Figure 6: Trench locations in relation to projected medieval furrows.



Figure 7: Application area prior to evaluation.
Looking south- west.

Results

The trenches were excavated by a 360 tracked excavator with a 1.8m ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. After excavation and recording, the trenches were backfilled. The topsoil across the site consisted of a light reddish to orange brown friable clay silt. The sub-soil was most apparent to the south of the site, but was less evident to the north. The natural substratum consisted of a firm light red brown clay with patches of well sorted small rounded pebbles with heavy concentrations of manganese. Some of the trenches were re-positioned due a probable service trench as suggested by the geophysical survey. Only Trench 14 was positioned some distance from its proposed location from running five metres away from and parallel to Measham Road. This was undertaken to identify any possible medieval plot boundary ditches fronting the street as identified by previous evaluations east and south-east of Measham Road (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014; Patrick 2016). However only two west furrows were identified crossing the trench width. Furrows were located within the majority of the other trenches as suggested by the geophysical results (Prestidge 2013). Trenches 1 to 3 and 6, 8, and 10 did show a change in furrow orientation running north-east to south-west which is shown on Figure 3. A sample of the furrows was machine sectioned in Trenches 2, 10 and 11 to assess the potential for archaeological deposits surviving beneath them. The furrows were c. 2m wide and over 0.4m deep indicating that the potential for the survival of deposits beneath the furrows to be low.

A post-medieval/modern ditch was located cutting the furrow in trenches 2 and 8 and terminating within trench 9. Modern pottery was present in the upper fills (not retained). A field ditch was also identified within trenches 11, 12, and 15 cutting furrows of the

two orientations. The ditch appeared to turn right towards the boundary of a present standing 19th century cottage fronting Measham Road.

The evaluation proved almost entirely negative for archaeological remains. This was with exception to a single feature in the form a circular shallow pit within trench 4 up slope at the extreme western extent of the field. However no dating evidence was recovered.

The Table below lists all 22 trenches recorded. Only trench 4 contained archaeological remains in the form of a small pit [001]. All of the other trenches contained furrows with trenches 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, & 15 containing a post-medieval enclosure ditch.

| Trench | Orientation | Length& Width (Metres) | Topsoil Thickness (Metres) | Subsoil Thickness (Metres) | Description | Trench Depth (Min-Max Metres) |
|--------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | W-E | 30 x 1.80 | 0.12- 0.18 | 0.07- 0.24 | North to south furrows | 0.22- 0.36 |
| 2 | W-E | 30 x 1.80 | 0.11- 0.16 | 0.06 – 0.20 | North to south furrows, & ditch | 0.29- 0.45 |
| 3 | NW-NE | 30 x 1.80 | 0.13- 0.20 | 0.05-0.15 | NE to SW furrows | 0.27- 0.41 |
| 4 | NW-SE | 30 x 1.80 | 0.10- 0.30 | 0.11-0.25 | Pit [01] | 0.31-0.64 |
| 5 | N-S | 30 x 1.80 | 0.12- 0.20 | 0.08- 0.18 | East to west furrows | 0.32- 0.54 |
| 6 | E-W | 30 x 1.80 | 0.18- 0.24 | 0.10- 0.18 | - | 0.33- 0.53 |
| 7 | E-W | 30 x 1.80 | 0.19- 0.29 | 0.06-0.16 | NE to SW furrow | 0.29- 0.48 |
| 8 | NW-SE | 30 x 1.80 | 0.18- 0.30 | 0.06- 0.20 | NE to SW furrow, & ditch | 0.30- 0.62 |
| 9 | N-S | 30 x 1.80 | 0.15- 0.28 | 0.10- 0.30 | NE to SW furrows & NE to SW ditch | 0.30- 0.70 |
| 10 | E-W | 30 x 1.80 | 0.18- 0.20 | 0.08- 0.20 | NE to SW furrows | 0.30- 0.49 |
| 11 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.14- 0.20 | 0.12- 0.22 | NW to SE furrows, & ditch | 0.32- 0.53 |
| 12 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.24- 0.40 | | NW to SE furrows, & ditch | 0.24- 0.40 |
| 13 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.28- 0.44 | | NW to SW furrow | 0.28- 0.44 |
| 14 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.20- 0.34 | 0.12- 0.25 | NW to SE furrows | 0.40- 0.70 |
| 15 | N-S | 30 x 1.80 | 0.20- 0.35 | 0.15- 0.31 | NW to SE furrows, & ditch | 0.30- 0.46 |
| 16 | SE- NW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.28- 0.36 | 0.08 | East to west furrow | 0.26- 0.45 |

| Trench | Orientation | Length& Width (Metres) | Topsoil Thickness (Metres) | Subsoil Thickness (Metres) | Description | Trench Depth (Min-Max Metres) |
|--------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 | N-S | 30 x 1.80 | 0.20- 0.48 | 0.07 | NW to SE furrows | 0.20- 0.58 |
| 18 | E-W | 30 x 1.80 | 0.36- 0.28 | - | East to west furrow | 0.36- 0.60 |
| 19 | SE-NW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.22- 0.36 | - | East to west furrow | 0.26- 0.36 |
| 20 | N-S | 30 x 1.80 | 0.22- 0.35 | 0.08 | East to west furrow | 0.22- 0.38 |
| 21 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.26- 0.38 | 0.13 | NW to SE furrow | 0.30- 0.45 |
| 22 | NE-SW | 30 x 1.80 | 0.23- 0.40 | - | NW to SE furrows | 0.28- 0.40 |



Figure 8: Trench 2, looking north-west.
Shows north-east to south-west ditch cutting the furrow. Machine excavated furrows in background



Figure 9: Trench 4, looking north- west.
Pit [001] at north end of trench



Figure 10: Pit [01] in trench 4.
Looking north- west. 1.0 m scale

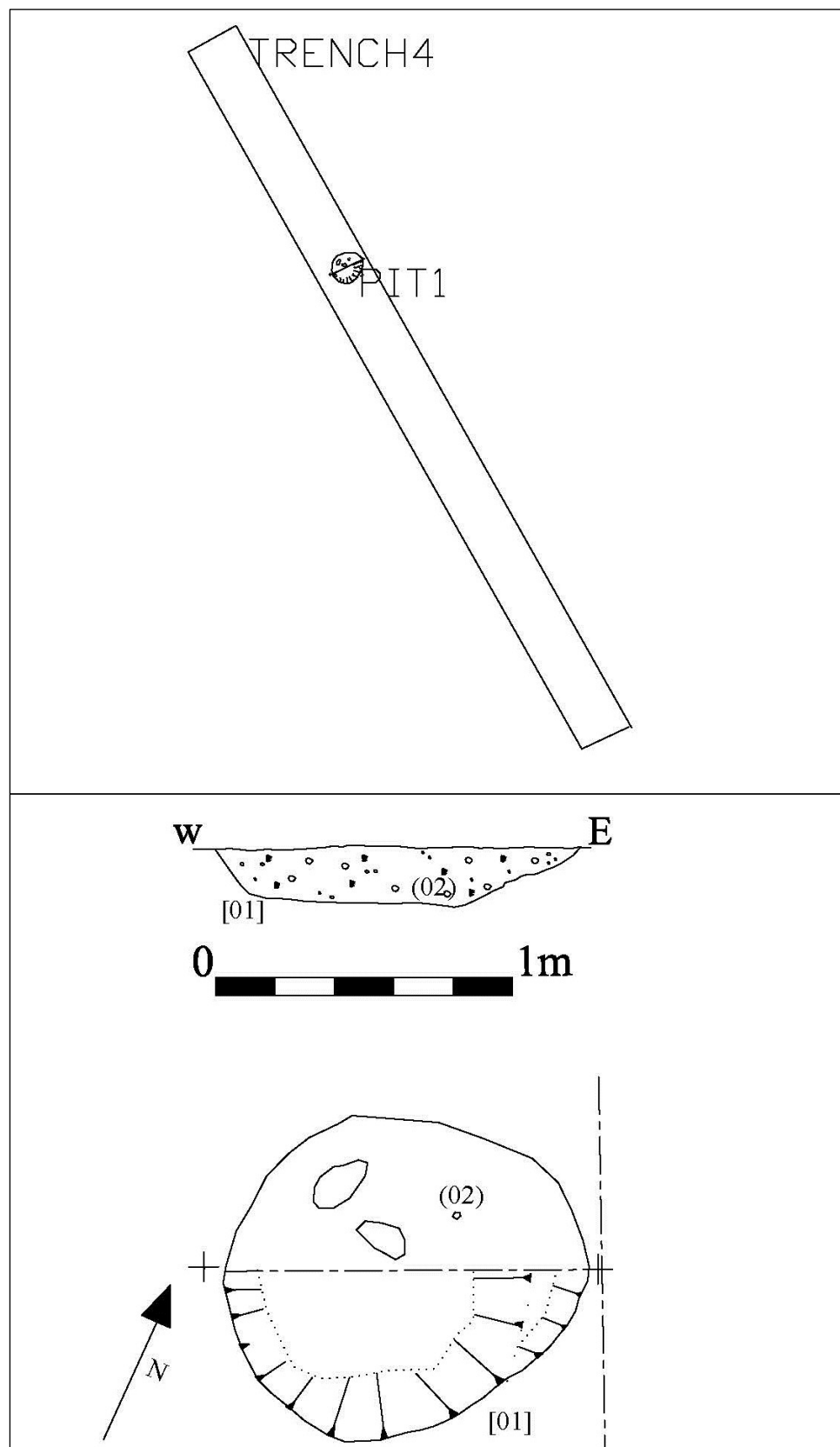


Figure 11: Trench 4: Shows small pit [01] at the northern half of the trench

Trench 4: Context [01] (02)

A single small pit [01] was identified towards the northern half of trench 4 at the top of the slope. It was circular, 1.10m in diameter with sides of a moderate gradient breaking sharply onto a flat base with a depth of just 0.20 m probably due heavy truncation by plough. The single deposit (02) was of mid yellowish brown friable silty-sand with 10% pebbles, and up to 5% charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.



Figure 12: Trench 8, looking south-east.

Shows continuation of north-east to south-west post-medieval ditch at far end of ditch which continues from trench 2. Machine excavated furrow in background



Figure 13: Trench 9, looking south.
Shows north-east to south-west post-medieval/modern ditch terminating in furrow.



Figure 14: Trench 11: Looking south-west.
Shows north-west to south-east post-medieval/modern field ditch cutting furrow



Figure 15: Trench 12: Looking south-west.
Shows ditch continuing east from trench 11.



Figure 16: Trench 14: Looking north-east.
Shows machine excavated furrows



Figure 17: Trench 15, looking north- east.
Shows north-west to south-east ditch and furrows continuing from trench 12

Conclusion

The linear features shown by the geophysical survey results (Prestidge 2013) were identified by the evaluation as furrows. This is also confirmed by the ridge and furrow plotted from vertical aerial photographs within the development area (See figure 3).

The evaluation proved largely negative for archaeological remains. This was with exception to an isolated pit [01] within trench 5 up slope at the far west end of the site. Although undated, it is not uncommon to find such isolated pits to be of pre-historic date. The ground is slightly higher within this area and its possibly pre-historic remains could be present in fields further to the west of this pit on higher ground. Such isolated pits were encountered on the periphery of denser archaeological remains during trial trenching at Lockington quarry in north-west Leicestershire (Patrick 2016).

Medieval boundary plot ditches were identified during two previous evaluations both opposite this site, and to the south-east fronting the east side of Measham Road (Jarvis 2014; Hyam 2014; Patrick 2016). Trench 14 was located to attempt to identify similar ditches fronting the west side. However this proved negative. Deep furrows were machine excavated in this trench as with some furrows in the other trenches.

Two post-medieval field enclosure ditches were identified during the evaluation. These formed an 'L' shape with each ditch cutting the two differently orientated furrows, forming a partition. The ditches may represent the parliamentary enclosures, although they were not shown on the first edition 1884 map of Appleby Magna and Measham (see Figure 4).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Mulberry Homes Ltd for their co-operation. Also thanks to Richard Huxley for his assistance during the evaluation and his valued help during the subsequent survey. Thanks also to Graham Garret of Planters machine hire for driving the excavator. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by James Patrick, 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 69.2016

The archive consists of the following:

- 22 Trench recording sheets
- 2 context record sheets
- 3 indice record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 CD digital report
- 2 Contact sheets of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photograph

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15-06-2016

Appendix 1 OASIS Information

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| PROJECT DETAILS | Oasis No | universi1-xxxx | | |
| | Project Name | An Archaeological Evaluation on land west of, Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire | | |
| | Start/end dates of field work | 07-06-2016 | | |
| | Previous/Future Work | | | |
| | Project Type | Evaluation | | |
| | Site Status | None | | |
| | Current Land Use | Rough pasture | | |
| | Monument Type/Period | None/none | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | | | |
| | Development Type | Residential | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | NPPF | | |
| | Position in the Planning Process | Planning Condition | | |
| | Planning Ref. | P.A. 15/00778/OUT | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | Site Address/Postcode | Measham Road, Appleby Magna, DE12 7BN | | |
| | Study Area | 2.3 ha | | |
| | Site Coordinates | SK 317 103 | | |
| | Height OD | c 90m 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 :Mulberry Homes Ltd | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | | Physical | Digital | Paper |
| | Recipient | NA | LCC | LCC |
| | ID (Acc. No.) | | A69-2016 | A9_2015 |
| | Contents | | Photos Survey data | Fieldwork records Field Notes |
| PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY | Type | Grey Literature (unpublished) | | |
| | Title | An Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Measham Road, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire | | |
| | Author | Jamie Patrick | | |
| | Other bibliographic details | ULAS Report No 2016-093 | | |
| | Date | 2016 | | |
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| | Description | Developer Report A4 pdf | | |



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