



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An archaeological field
evaluation on land at
Manor Farm,
Arnesby Lane,
Peatling Magna,
Leicestershire
(SP 59505 92549)**

Leon Hunt



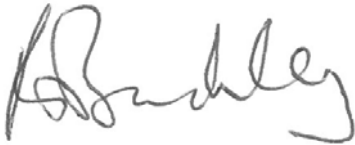
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for

Sheelagh Shaen Carter

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Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549) in advance of the construction of a new development on the site, currently a pasture field.

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village. It is also close to the Grade II listed Manor Farmhouse and Grade I listed All Saints' Church. It also lies to the west of the remains of the medieval deserted village of Peatling Magna, which is early medieval in origin.

Two evaluation trenches were placed across the footprints of the proposed new dwelling and associated car port to address the impact from the construction of the new development. Trench 01 was negative for archaeological features and contained a modern post-hole. However, Trench 02 contained three linear features, most likely ditches associated with enclosures or small garden plots. No dating evidence was recovered from the features.

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2018.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 59505 92549) in advance of the construction of a new detached dwelling and separate car port on a pasture field previously used as an orchard.

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates the proposed site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village. It is also close to the Grade II listed Manor Farmhouse and Grade I listed All Saints' Church.

Earthworks associated with the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Peatling Magna lie nearby.

Location and Geology

Peatling Magna lies in Harborough District. The proposed development is located in the Harborough District of Leicestershire, around 9 miles south of Leicester (Figure 1). The site itself lies in the centre of the village around 80m north of the parish church. It consists of a parcel of pasture land of 0.23ha, lying at a height of around 101m aOD, with a slight slope to the east. It lies around 1.5m above the roadline to the north (Arnesby Lane) (Figure 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology was likely to be Till, overlying Blue Lias Formation mudstone.

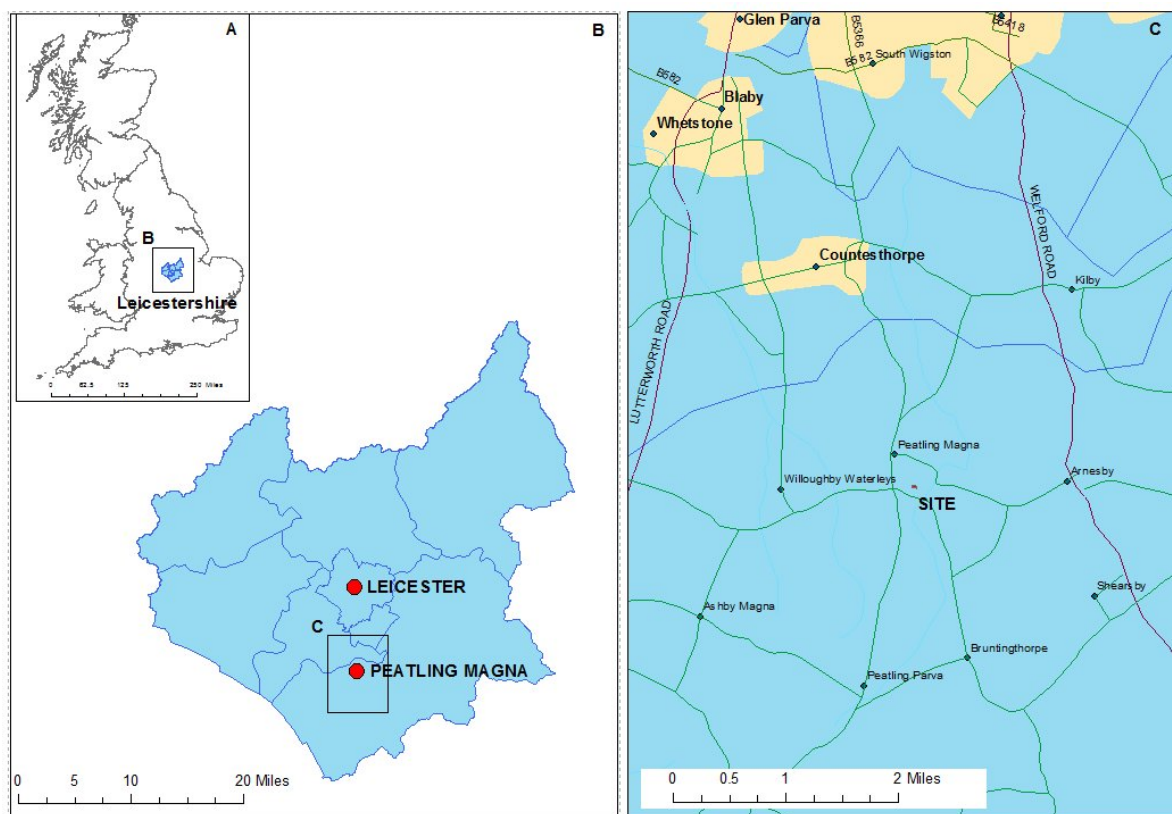


Figure 1: Site Location

Historical and Archaeological Background

The village of Peatling Magna (or Great Peatling) is recorded in ‘Petlinge’ in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The name is derived from the Old English male personal name of ‘Peotla’ in the ‘ing’ suffix is early Anglo-Saxon and means ‘followers of’. So the village name means ‘the settlement of Peotla’s people’. The Latin ‘Magna’ for ‘great’ appears for the first time in 1224, to differentiate it from the smaller Peatling Parva. The two Peatlings would once have been one land unit.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village (HER Ref. MLE10554) and adjacent to the Grade II listed Manor Farmhouse, and associated farm complex and 80m north of the Grade I listed All Saints’ Church. It is also close to the remains of the medieval deserted settlement and manorial garden remains.

Therefore there was high potential for medieval or post-medieval remains to be found within the study area.

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.

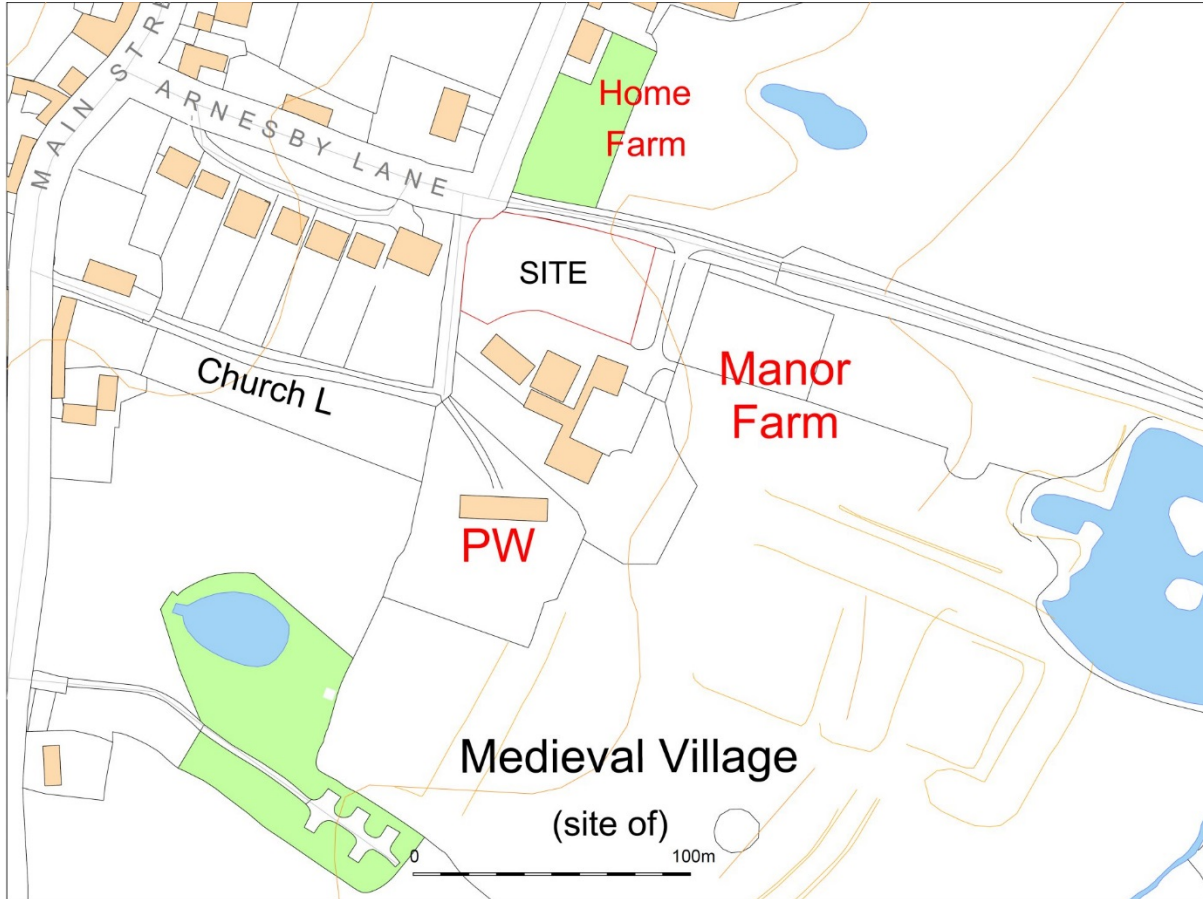


Figure 2: Site location within Peatling Magna. Contains Ordnance Survey data

Methodology

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

The WSI asked for two 30m by 1.6m trenches to be placed across the footprints of the proposed new dwelling and associated car port to address the impact from the construction of the new development (Figure 3).

Due to size constraints on the site, and the presence of a service running broadly north-west to south-east across the site, the two trenches (Trenches 01 and 02) were foreshortened slightly and were respectively 19.5m and 26.5m long.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB back-actor fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The soils were stripped under archaeological supervision to the top of archaeological remains or the natural sub-stratum, whichever was the higher in the sequence (Figure 4).

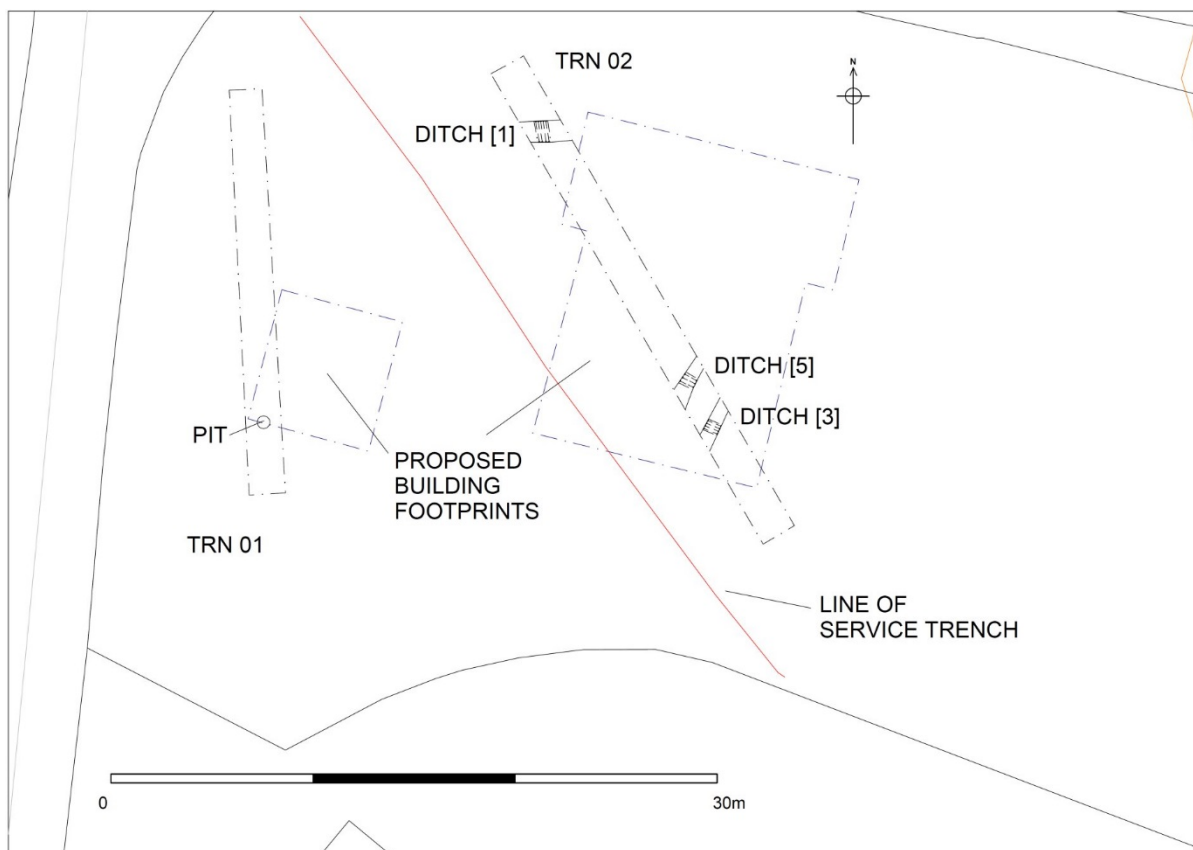


Figure 3: Location of evaluation trenches and features



Figure 4: Work in progress Trench 01, looking south

Results

Trench 01

| Interval | N 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 19.5m S |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.28m | 0.25m | 0.29m | 0.27m | 0.20m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.17m | 0.18m | 0.16m | 0.23m | 0.06m |
| Depth of Natural | 0.45m | 0.43m | 0.45m | 0.50m | - |
| Base of Trench | 0.46m | 0.46m | 0.47m | 0.57m | 0.26m |



Figure 5: Trench 01, post-excavation, looking south

The topsoil consisted of a dark yellowish-grey soft silty clay with frequent medium and large sub-rounded and angular pebbles. The subsoil was a mid yellowish-brown firm silty clay with frequent medium and large pebbles. The sub-stratum consisted of brownish yellow clay with stones, most likely glacial Till (Figure 5).

To the southern end of the trench was a circular feature of around 0.40m diameter. This was excavated and found to be modern in origin, containing topsoil and modern pottery. No archaeological features were located within this trench. After excavation the lower parts of the trench rapidly filled with water.



Figure 6: Trench 02, post-excavation, looking south-east

Trench 02

| Interval | N 0m | 5m | 10m | 15m | 20m | 26.5m S |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Topsoil Depth | 0.34m | 0.30m | 0.36m | 0.40m | 0.45m | 0.42m |
| Subsoil Depth | 0.10m | 0.12m | 0.13m | 0.07m | 0.07m | 0.10m |
| Depth of Natural | 0.44m | 0.42m | 0.49m | 0.52m | 0.52m | 0.52m |
| Base of Trench | 0.44m | 0.45m | 0.50m | 0.55m | 0.55m | 0.52m |

The topsoil consisted of a dark yellowish grey soft silty clay with frequent medium and large sub-rounded and angular pebbles. The subsoil was a mid yellowish-brown firm silty clay with frequent medium and large pebbles. The sub-stratum consisted of brownish-yellow clay with stones (Figure 6).

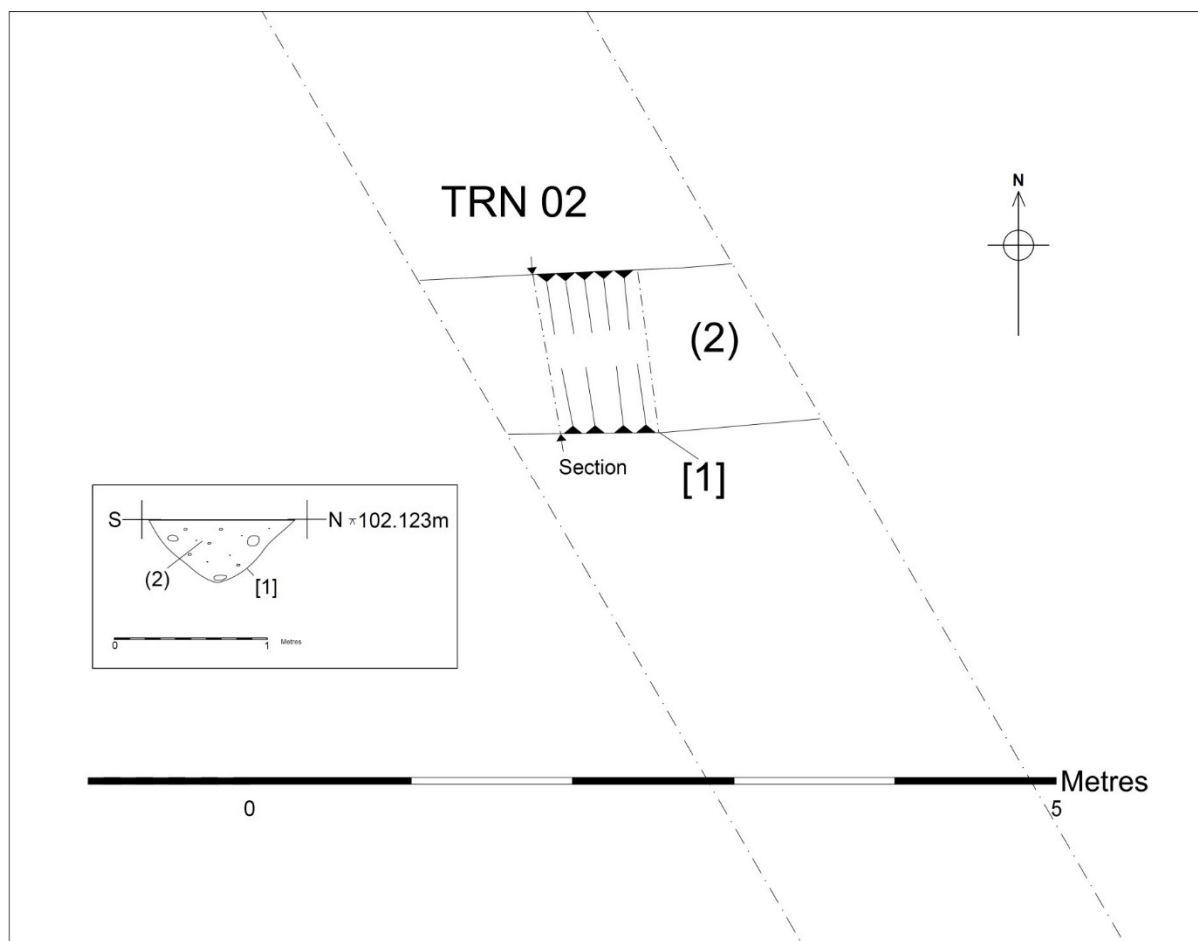


Figure 7: Post-excitation plan of Trench 02, northern end showing feature, with section inset

Three linear features were identified within this trench. Close to the northern end of the trench was a narrow ditch running broadly east to west and visible for 1.90m across the trench. It had a V-shaped cut [1], with moderate to steep sides and an apparently U-shaped base, although ground water seeped into the feature immediately after excavation and made clear recording very difficult. It was 0.80m wide and 0.34m deep. The fill (2) was a mid yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles and occasional larger stones (Figures 7 & 8).

Towards the southern end of Trench 02 were two further features, apparently running north-east to south-west and broadly perpendicular to feature [1] and parallel to one another (Figure 9). The larger of the two lay to the south and was visible for around 2m across the trench. It consisted of a V-shaped cut [3] with moderate to steep sides and a U-shaped base, although this too filled with water very quickly. It was 0.7m wide and 0.30m deep. The fill (4) was a mid yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles (Figure 10).



Figure 8: East facing section of feature [1], looking west

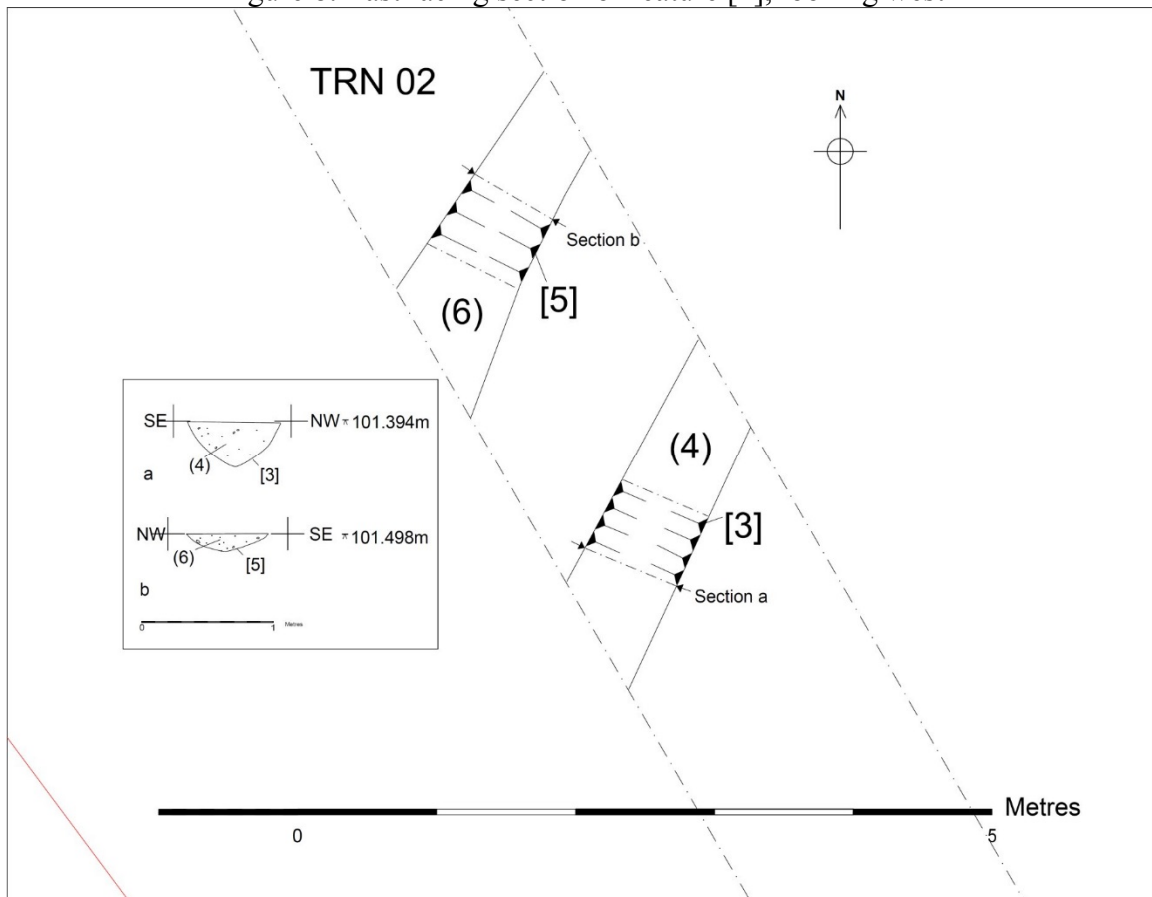


Figure 9: Post-excitation plan of Trench 02, southern end showing feature, with section inset

The other feature was visible for 1.96m across the trench and was 0.60m wide and 0.13m deep (Figure 9). The cut [5] was sloping and fairly shallow with a U-shaped base. The fill (6) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles.



Figure 10: North-east facing section of feature [3], looking south-west

Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at Manor Farm revealed a modern feature (most likely for a large post) in Trench 01 and three undated linear features in Trench 02 to the east. The form of the features would suggest that they are drainage or enclosure ditches, possibly associated with garden plots or small enclosures in this area. However, with no dating evidence retrieved from within the fills it cannot be assumed that these features are medieval or post-medieval in origin.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank architect Sheelagh Shaen Carter and agent Robert Woodford for the work. Thanks are also due to Heidi Maeers and Richard Marshall for their help and co-operation with this project.

Leon Hunt carried out the field work for ULAS assisted by Wayne Jarvis during the surveying stage. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A2.2018 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 2 Trench recording sheets
- 1 Photo Record sheet
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Context list
- 6 Context Sheets

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Appendix: OASIS data entry

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.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------|---|
| PROJECT DETAILS | Oasis No | universi1- 305312 | | |
| | Project Name | An archaeological field evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire (SP 59505 92549) | | |
| | Start/end dates of field work | 03-01-2018 to 04-01-2018 | | |
| | Previous/Future Work | No/ not known | | |
| | Project Type | Evaluation | | |
| | Site Status | None | | |
| | Current Land Use | Pasture | | |
| | Monument Type/Period | Undated | | |
| | Significant Finds/Period | None | | |
| | Reason for Investigation | NPPF | | |
| | Position in the Planning Process | Planning condition | | |
| Planning Ref. | 17/01165/FUL | | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | Site Address/Postcode | Manor Farm, Arnesby Lane, Peatling Magna, Leicestershire | | |
| | Study Area | 0.23 ha | | |
| | Site Coordinates | SP 59505 92549 | | |
| | Height OD | 101m aOD | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | Organisation | ULAS | | |
| | Project Brief Originator | Local Planning Authority (LCC) | | |
| | Project Design Originator | ULAS | | |
| | Project Manager | Richard Buckley | | |
| | Project Director/Supervisor | Leon Hunt | | |
| Sponsor/Funding Body | Sheelagh Shaen Carter | | | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVE | | Physical | Digital | Paper |
| | Recipient | LCC Museum service | LCC Museum service | LCC Museum service |
| | ID (Acc. No.) | X.A2.2018 | X.A2.2018 | X.A2.2018 |
| | Contents | None | CD digital photographs | Report Trench sheets Context Sheets |
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