



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 15
Spring Lane, Packington, Ashby De La
Zouch, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 3646 1458

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No. 2019-056

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Spring Lane, Packington, Ashby
De La Zouch, Leicestershire
(SK 3646 1458)**

**Nathan Flavell
For: Keller Construction Ltd
Planning Ref: 19/00182/FUL**

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Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Spring Lane, Packington, Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 3646 1458)

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Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out to the rear of 15 Spring Lane, Packington, Leicestershire, (SK 3646 1458) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 9th April 2019. The work was undertaken on behalf of Keller Construction Ltd in advance of a new residential development. No archaeological deposits were identified during the course of the investigations, therefore the impact of the development upon buried remains is considered to be negligible. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under the accession number X.A29.2019.

Introduction

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out on land to the rear of 15 Spring Lane, Packington, Leicestershire (SK 3646 1458). The work was undertaken on behalf of Keller Construction Ltd by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 9th April 2019. In advance of the proposed development of the site for housing (Planning Application 19/00182/FUL), the Planning Archaeologist as advisor to North-West Leicestershire District Council requested an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology. The results of this work would then inform a planning decision as to whether or not any further archaeological investigations would be necessary to mitigate damage which might occur to any archaeology.

Packington lies in Leicestershire in the district of North West Leicestershire, close to the A42 and the towns of Ashby de la Zouch and Measham (Fig. 1). The work followed the approved methodology as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation (Buckley 2019).

Geology and Topography

The site lies on the east side of the village, with access from Normanton Road. (Fig. 2). The site covers approximately 0.56 hectares and lies at a height of around 110m aOD. This site will be used to build student accommodation once work is complete.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology as: Moira Formation – Breccia. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 272.3 and 241.5 million years ago during the Permian and Triassic periods. There are no superficial deposits recorded.

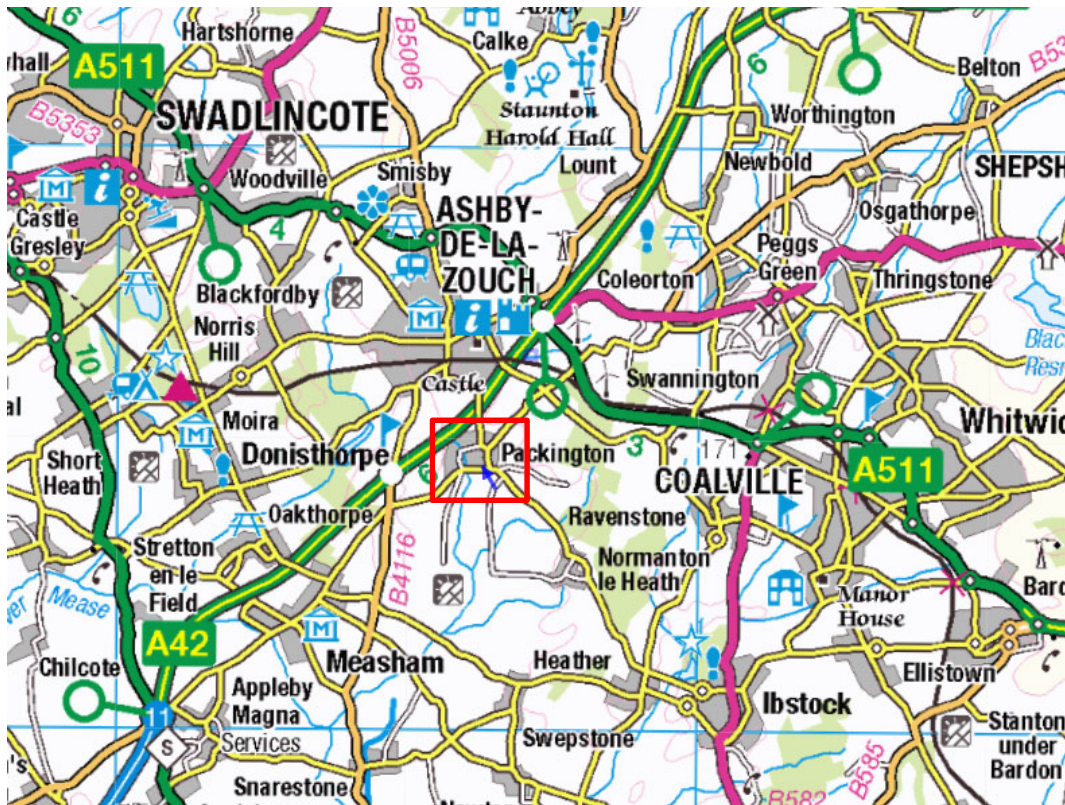


Figure 1: Location of site

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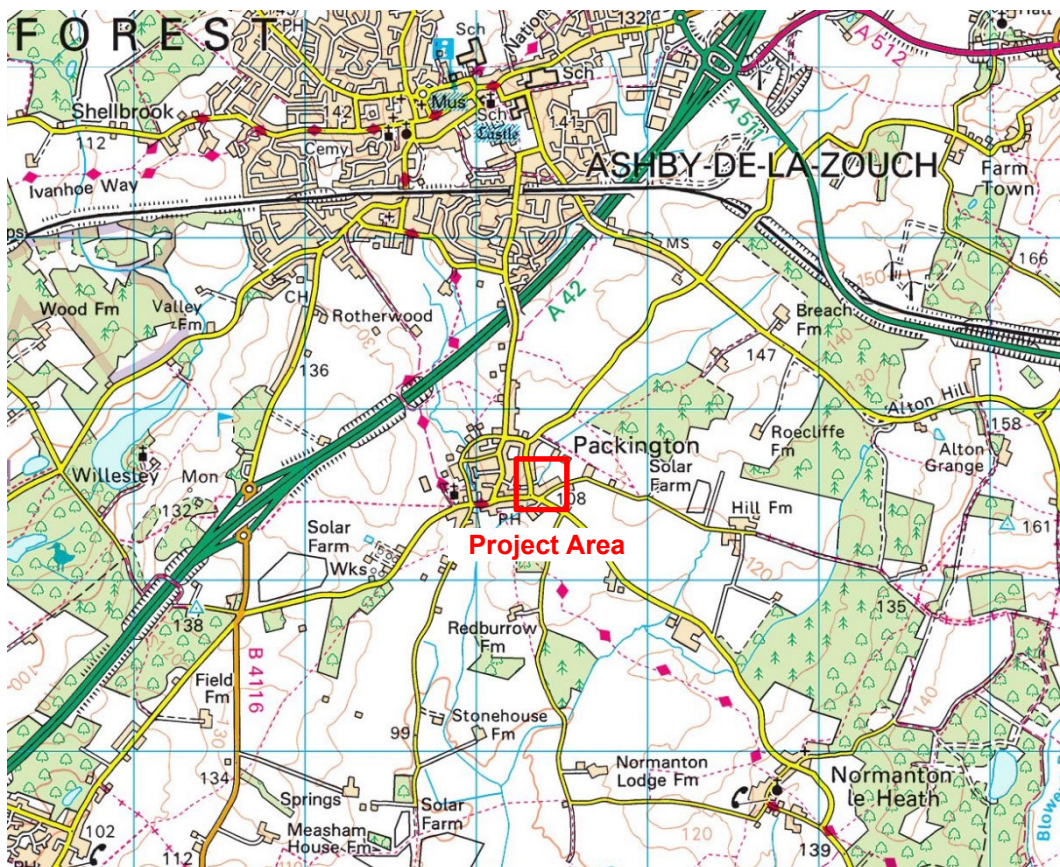


Figure 2: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The village of Packington itself is early medieval, first documented during the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Pachintone (Williams & Martin 1992, 631). This is thought to refer to, in Old English, the 'Estate of Pacca' (Mills 2003). In 1043, Leofric earl of Mercia granted the manor and the advowson of the church to the abbey of St Mary at Coventry. It remained in the possession of the abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s. At the time of the Domesday Survey the village contained approximately ten families, including a priest; this had risen to thirty-eight families in 1564. The village is noted to have had a mill since the 12th century and was granted the right to hold a market in 1257 (Nichols 1815, 924). Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the manor of Packington was granted by the Crown to the Hastings family of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It was subsequently held by them and their descendants until the estate was sold off in the 1920s. Within Packington the patronage of the Abney-Hastings family was reflected in their involvement in the building of the village school on Mill Lane in the late nineteenth century. Sir Charles Abney-Hastings in 1833 established a school at the White House and had the bridge over the Gilwiskaw Brook on Bridge Street built at his expense in 1832. The settlement developed with an agricultural economy until the second half of the twentieth century.

The site is adjacent to the historic core settlement of Packington (HER **MLE10599**). Appraisal of available aerial photographs suggested the presence or former presence of ridge and furrow earthworks within the site, indicating the site lies within the former extent of the open field system that would have surrounded Packington through much of the medieval and post-medieval periods. There is a water course close to the north east of the site (Fig. 3).

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

The original trench plan, as indicated in the WSI, consisted of a series of interventions located to cover the area of a new building (Fig. 4). Due to site constraints however, the trenches were moved or shortened to avoid trees (Fig. 5). The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucketed machine down to natural substratum.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).

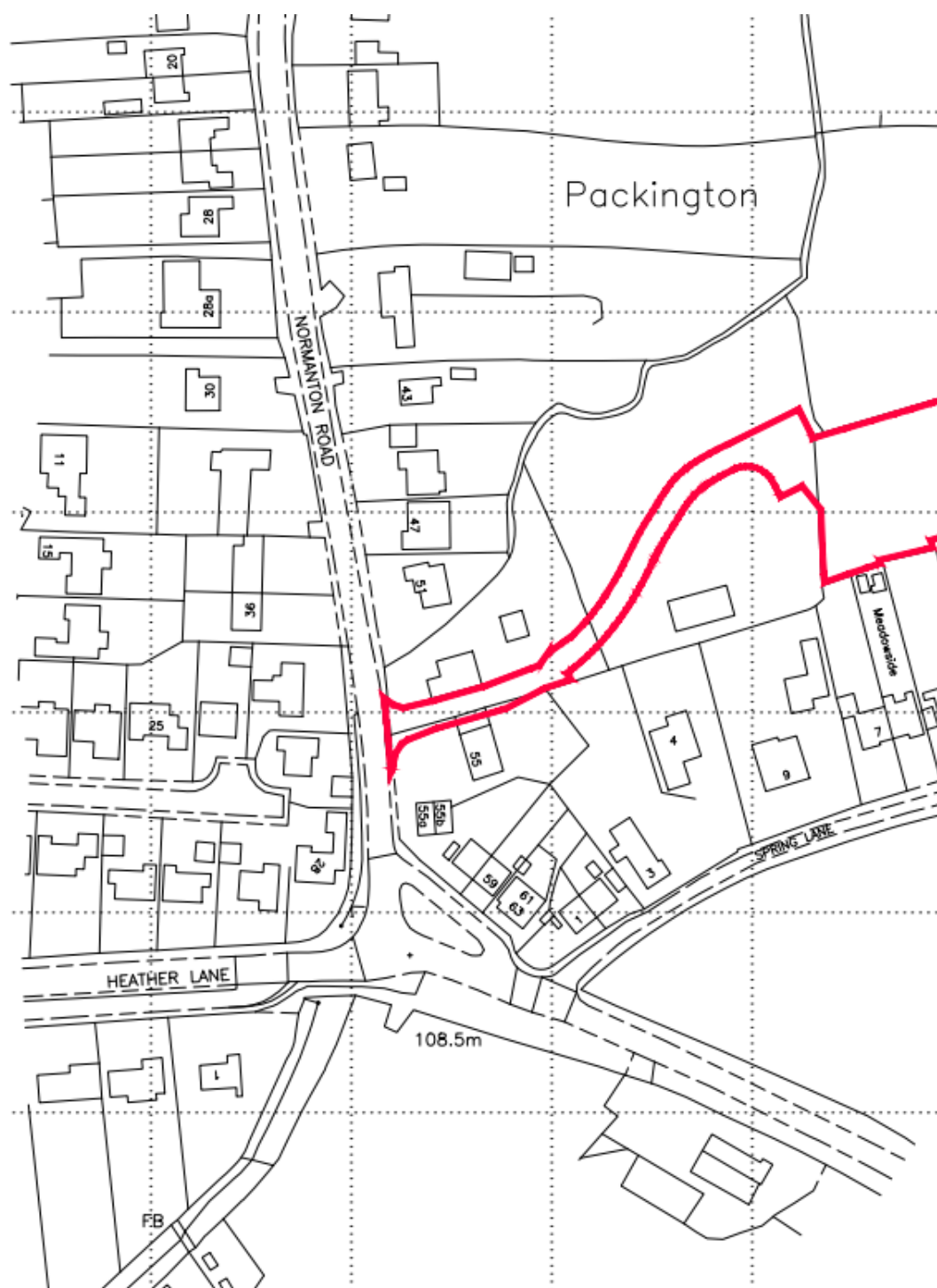


Figure 3: Site Location (not to scale)
Plan provided by developer.

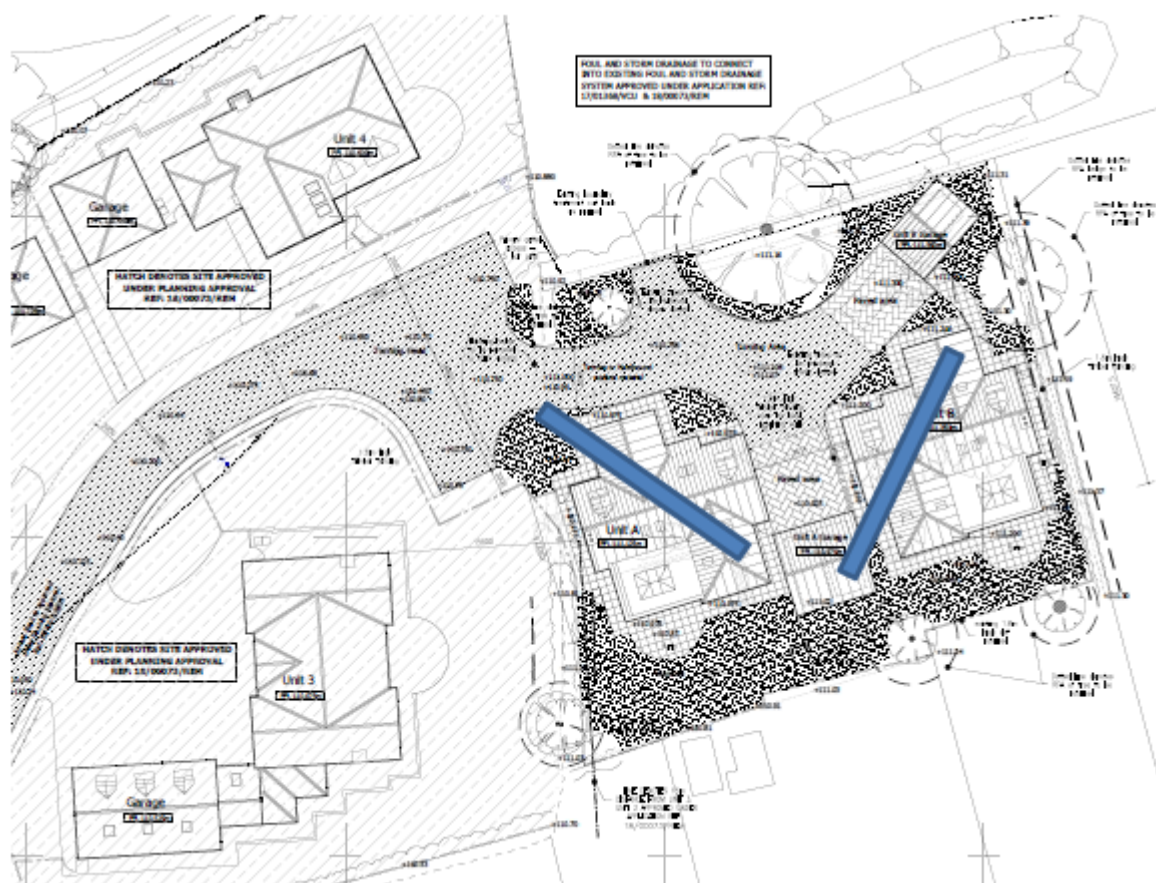


Figure 4: Proposed site layout showing trial trench locations

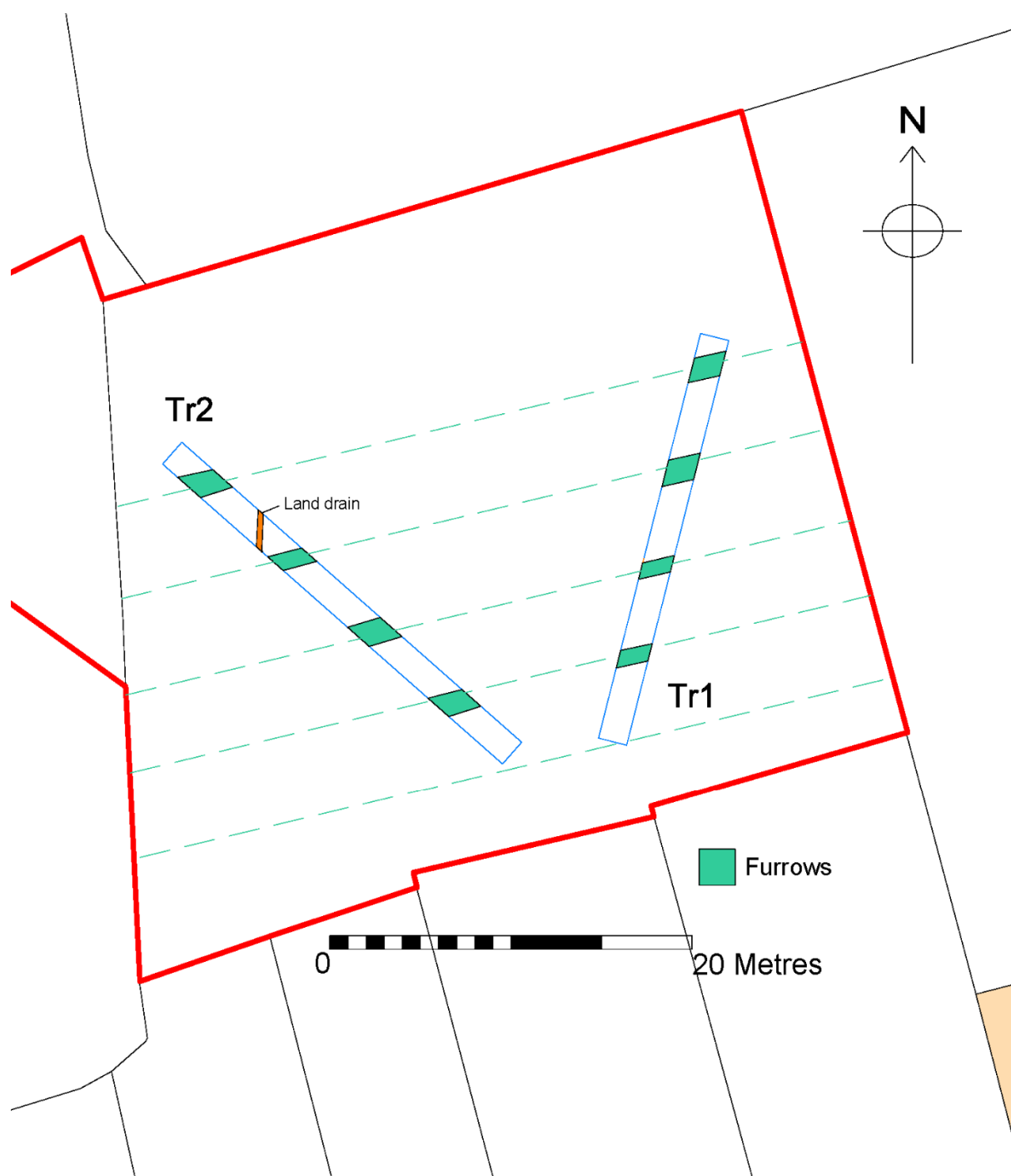


Figure 5: Site plan with furrows

Results

Extant earthworks in the form of ridge and furrow was evident aligned almost east-west parallel with the north and south site boundaries (Fig. 6) The excavated trenches revealed furrows in line with extant ridge and furrow.



Figure 6: Extant ridge and furrow

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 23m x 1.6m, and was aligned northeast-southwest (Fig. 7). The natural substratum consisted of pale yellow-grey clay with russet sandy clay and pebble patches, encountered between 0.28m and 0.5m. Cut into the natural were a series of furrows aligned roughly east-west, generally 0.9-1m wide, filled by subsoil. The natural was overlain by subsoil, red-orange-brown sandy clay with occasional pebble inclusions, and 0.15-0.26m thick. This was covered by topsoil, red-brown sandy clay loam, 0.12-0.2m thick. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
1	23		1.6	36.8		0.7		2.43		No
Interval (m) from southwest end	0	5	10	15	20	23				
Topsoil depth	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.12	0.18	0.3				
Subsoil depth	0.15	0.22	0.25	0.16	0.15	0.2				
Top of natural substratum	0.35	0.42	0.43	0.28	0.32	0.5				
Base of trench	0.47	0.49	0.5	0.32	0.4	0.52				



Figure 7: Trench 1 looking northeast

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 25m x 1.6m, and was aligned northwest-southeast (Fig. 8). The natural substratum consisted of pale yellow-grey clay with russet sandy clay and pebble patches, encountered between 0.3m and 0.44m. Cut into the natural were a series of furrows aligned roughly east-west, generally 0.9-1m wide, filled by subsoil. The natural was overlain by subsoil, red-orange-brown sandy clay with occasional pebble inclusions, and 0.1-0.2m thick. This was covered by topsoil, red-brown sandy clay loam, 0.17-0.3m thick. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	25		1.6	40		0.39		0.52		No
Interval (m) from southeast end	0	5	10	15	20	25				
Topsoil depth	0.24	0.23	0.25	0.3	0.18	0.17				

Subsoil depth	0.2	0.2	0.14	0.1	0.18	0.13			
Top of natural substratum	0.44	0.43	0.39	0.4	0.36	0.3			
Base of trench	0.46	0.43	0.39	0.52	0.4	0.48			



Figure 8: Trench 2 looking northwest

Discussion

The evidence recovered from the trial trenching and extant earthworks clearly show ridge and furrow ploughing indicating that the site lay in the open fields of Packington during the medieval period. Leicestershire HER records the site and immediate area as such (Fig. 11). The 1901 edition OS map shows the site in part of a larger enclosed field which has been subsequently divided up into housing plots in the 20th Century (Fig. 12). The trial trenching revealed no evidence for archaeological deposits, therefore the impact of the development upon buried remains is considered to be negligible.



Figure 9: Medieval ridge and furrow in environs of Packington; study area in red.
(Map provided by Leicestershire County Council)

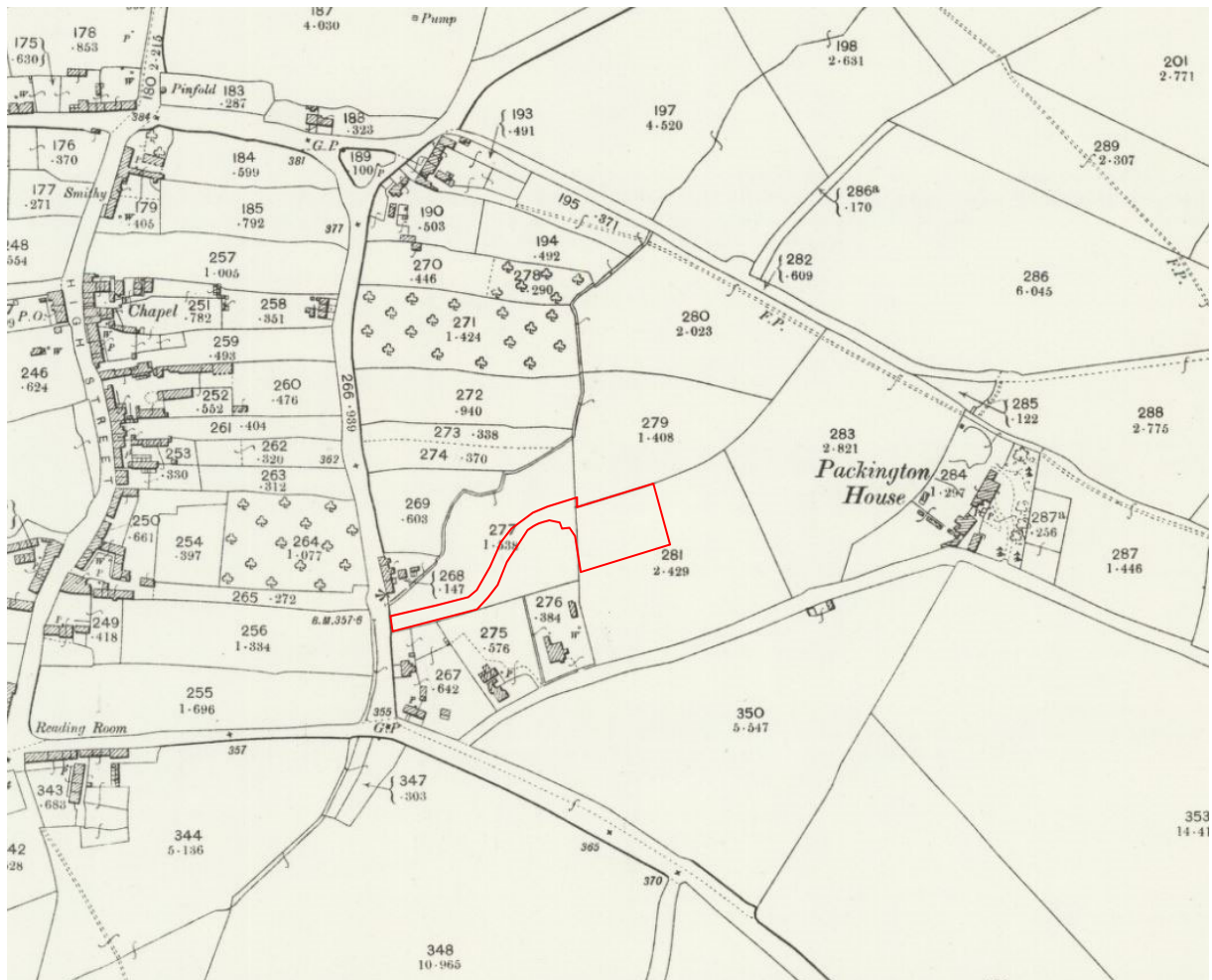


Figure 10: OS 1901 with site boundary

Bibliography

B.G.S. website, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Brown, D., 2008, *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Buckley, R., 2019 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Filed Evaluation: 15 Spring Lane, Packington, Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1WU* ULAS WSI 19-082

Archive

The site archive for this phase consists of: 2 A4 trial trench sheets, 1 A4 photo index sheet and 14 digital photographs. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A29.2019.

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.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1		
	Project Name	15 Spring Lane, Packington		
	Start/end dates of field work	09-04-2019		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status			
	Current Land Use	Orchard		
	Monument Type/Period	Medieval, post-medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	19/00182/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	15 Spring Lane, Packington, Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1WU		
	Study Area	0.12 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 3646 1458		
	Height OD	110m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Originator Brief	Local Planning Authority (CCC)		
	Project Originator Design	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley/John Thomas		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Keller Construction Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leics MusService	Leics MusService	Leics MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A29.2019	X.A29.2019	X.A29.2019
	Contents		Photos	Trial trench sheets, photo records, contact sheet
PROJECT	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		

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