



**An Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Main Street, Stathern,
Leicestershire, LE14 4YH**

NGR: SK 76870 31000

Christopher Naisbitt



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Grid Ref: SK 76870 31000

Author: Christopher Naisbitt

Client: Donald Sutherland (Pegasus Group) on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universi1-370290		
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation on land west of Main Street, Stathern, Leicestershire (SK 76870 31000)		
	Start/end dates	10 th to 17 th September 2019		
	Previous/Future Work	Geophysical survey		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Pasture Land/ Paddocks		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Pre Planning		
Planning Ref.	NA			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Main Street, Stathern, Leicestershire, LE14 4YH		
	Study Area	3.7ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 76870 31000		
	Height OD	c.64m to c.75m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Melton Borough Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Christopher Naisbitt		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Pegasus Group on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd		
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An archaeological field evaluation on land west of main street, Stathern, Leicestershire (SK 76870 31000)

Christopher Naisbitt

Summary

This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Stathern, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 76870 31000) in advance of a residential development.

The development site consisted of a number of small paddocks and a large, modern agricultural shed.

A geophysical survey was carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (2019) which showed no geophysical anomalies that could be confidently attributed to buried archaeological remains. The geophysical survey of the site recorded probable evidence of ridge and furrow within the site that corresponded to visible earthworks.

A total of 14 trenches were placed across four paddocks, designated areas A1, A2, A3 and A4.

All of the possible archaeological activity was identified in trenches to the east of the site and nearer the village. A number of features were identified in Trench 1. No dating was recovered and given that these features were on the same orientation as the visible ridge and furrow, they are likely to be associated with agricultural activity. Two possible features were observed in Trench 2. No finds were recovered and the fills were noticeably sterile, possibly deriving from natural erosion processes. Anomalies excavated in Trench 4 were found to be natural geological features. Trench 5 revealed a shallow gully and a ditch which appeared to have been culverted and backfilled with iron stone rubble and small amounts of waste building materials. One sherd of 17th/18th century pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material of similar age were found. These features were also seen in Trench 6 where a single sherd of pottery was found on the surface of the narrow gully also dating to the 17th/18th century. All pottery finds were likely to have been deposited as a result of the practice manuring of the fields with night soil and other rubbish.

The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A82.2019.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Donald Sutherland, Senior Heritage Consultant of Pegasus Group on behalf of Davidsons Developments Ltd, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Stathern in

Leicester, SK 76870 31000 (Fig. 1). The work was carried out between the 10th – 17th of September 2019.

The work was carried out as part of a programme of archaeological work required by the Planning Authority following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG 2018)

Geophysical survey on the development site (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2019) identified some anomalies, although none that could be confidently attributed to buried archaeological remains. Further work comprising trial trenching was therefore required to determine the impact of any proposed development on archaeological remains.

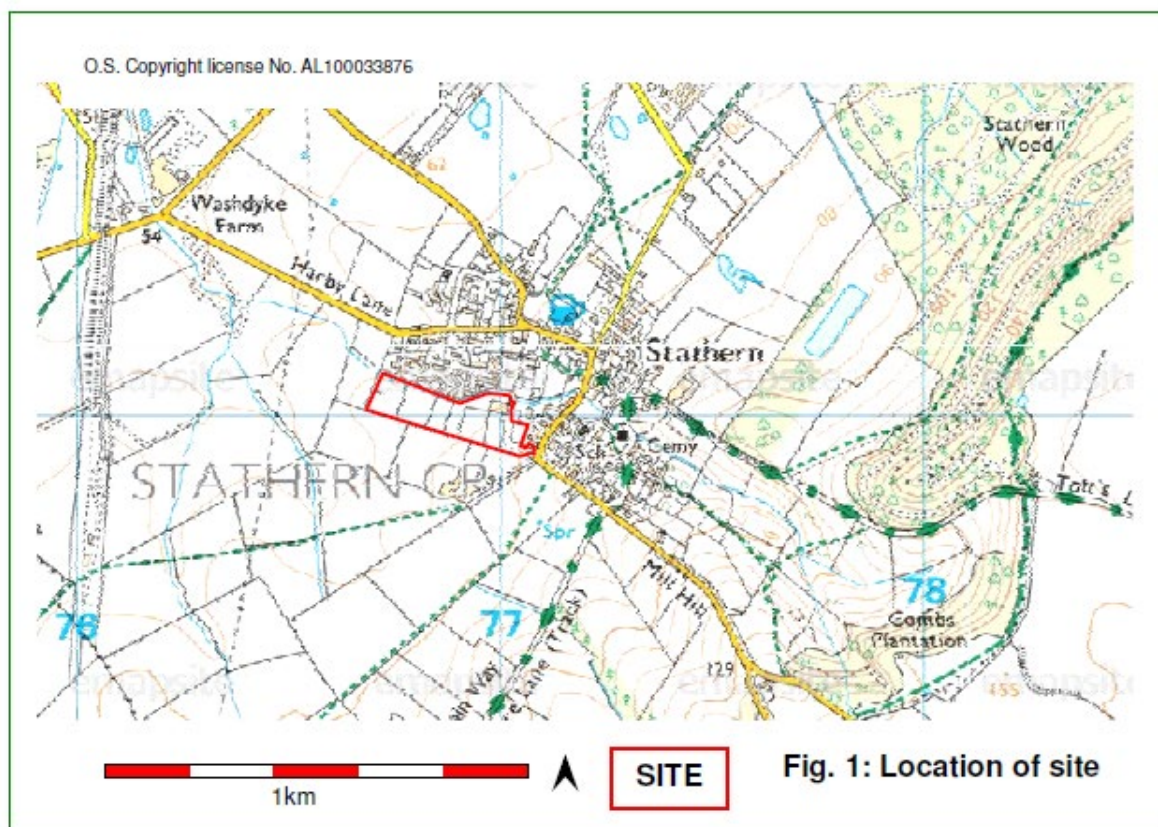


Figure 1: Site Location Plan
From Pre-construct geophysics 2019 and



Figure 2: Site Location

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Location and Geology

Stathern lies in Melton District in north-east Leicestershire close to the border with Nottinghamshire and is around 20 miles north-east of the city of Leicester and 10 miles north of Melton Mowbray (Fig. 1). The proposed development area is located within fields to the west of Main Street, which lies south-west of the village. It consists of a broadly rectangular area of around 3.7 hectares and includes four paddocks and a modern agricultural shed, (Fig. 2).

The land is currently under pasture as are the surrounding fields to the south and west. The north and eastern boundaries of the site border with the village itself.

The site occupies a slight west-facing slope that descends from c.75m AOD to c.65m AOD at its western boundary.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Charmouth Mudstone Formation. Superficial deposits of Head (clay, silt sand and gravel) are recorded in the central and eastern parts of the site.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies to the south-west of the historic medieval core of the village. A desk-based assessment from 2019 (Sutherland 2019) identified a small number of known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the assessment area (Sutherland 2019). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are no known archaeological remains recorded on the assessment area itself.

Prehistoric-Roman

There was only two recorded prehistoric activities within a 1km radius of the assessment area. The first of these activities comprised small scatter of Mesolithic flint, including two blades,

and were found at the south end of Stathern Wood, c.795m east of the site (**ref. MLE9489**). The flint scatter is thought to potentially indicate an occupation site. The second find, comprised a small biconical ‘incense cup’, dating to Bronze age is recorded as having been found in association with small tanged bronze knife. This find has a general location c.685m northeast of the site (**AMIE ref. 321650**). A trial trench evaluation (**ref. ELE4755**) located approximately 470m east-south-east of the site revealed two Roman ditches, (**ref. MLE16547**). The fills of both ditches contained Roman pottery, which suggested the potential for settlement activity nearby. A single sherd of Roman pottery is recorded as having been found at Stathern Wood, 880m east of the site (**ref. MLE9848**).

Medieval

Several instances of medieval archaeology are recorded in the HER, most relate to the medieval village of Stathern. Notably a medieval chantry is reputed to have stood on or near the extant Chantry House which lies c.85m north of the site (**ref. MLE17122**). Ridge and furrow earthworks are visible within the site on historic aerial photographs and satellite imagery.

Geophysical Investigation

A geophysical survey was carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (2019) which showed no geophysical anomalies that could be confidently attributed to buried archaeological remains. The geophysical survey of the site recorded probable evidence of ridge and furrow within the site that correspond to visible ridge and furrow earthworks and the possible backfilled line of a former watercourse in the northern part of the site, recorded on a 1792 map. (Pre Construct Geophysics 2019; Fig. 3).



Figure 3: Plan showing results of geophysical survey (from Pre-construct 2019)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To verify the results of the geophysical survey
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within undisturbed parts of the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to verify the geophysical survey and establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified 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.

The results of the evaluation will provide sufficient information to allow the local authority to make an informed decision on the forthcoming application and, if deemed necessary by the results of the evaluative work, develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Research Objectives

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it is possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012). The north east corner of the site is located within the historic village core and just south-west of the church, and the known archaeological sites on the HER suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore has the potential to contribute to the following specific research aims

Medieval

The area lies within a medieval agricultural landscape and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and early field systems. (7E) (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al.* 2012).

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* (ULAS 2019) agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist. The

work was monitored by Donald Sutherland (Pegasus Group) on behalf of Davidsons Developments and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

An accession number (X.A82.2019) was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts

A total of 14 trenches measuring 30m x 1.5m were proposed. These were located to target the possible geophysical anomalies and areas of disturbance as well as provide a sample of the total area (Fig. 4).

Trenches were measured in using hand measuring tapes and magnetic compass. The excavation of the trenches was carried out using a Hitachi 8.5ton, rubber tracked excavator, fitted with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket. An experienced archaeologist supervised the work at all times (Fig. 6).

Trenches were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI. Each trench was backfilled immediately after its archaeological potential had been assessed in order to allow livestock back on to the fields.



Figure 4: Proposed Location of the evaluation trenches (from the WSI, ULAS 2019)



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Strathern, Leicestershire, LE14 4YH
(NGR: SK 76870 31000)



Trench Plan
0 50m

Figure 5: Final location of the evaluation trenches.



Figure 6: Work in progress.

Results

The topsoil was a dark grey-brown loam topsoil consistent across all trenches. Occasional small pebble and gravel inclusions were identified and sand content was found to be highest in trenches toward the eastern edge of the site. The topsoil was a similar depth in all areas of the site, not exceeding 0.40m. Natural substratum was reached in all of the trenches except at the extreme east end of Trench 4 where a deep, natural geological feature was encountered. The substratum predominantly comprised yellow or brown-grey clay with occasional yellow clay patches. Occasional sub-angular iron stone inclusions were observed in Trench 12. Where subsoil was present, it consisted of a dark grey-brown, clay silt with small amounts of sand. Subsoil was not present in Trenches 2 and 9 and discontinuous in Trenches 5, 6, and 8. This may indicate that a certain amount of levelling/landscaping of the area may have taken place.

Trench 1

This trench was located in a small paddock to the east of the main area of investigation. Several shallow earthworks, running from north-west to south-east, were observed prior to excavation and were likely to be evidence of ridge and furrow.

Excavation revealed three parallel gully like cuts in close proximity to each another, [1], [3] and [5] (Figs 8-9). These features were orientated north-west to south-east, notably, on the same alignment as the observed earthworks. Cut [1] consisted of a flat bottomed feature, 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep with moderately sloping, straight sides. Cut [3] consisted of a steep sided feature with V shaped profile, 0.31m wide and 0.26m deep. Cut [5] was 0.36m wide and 0.19m deep, flat bottomed, with steep straight sides. These features were close enough to one another to have been intercutting however, no stratigraphic relationship was discernible. All three features contained the same grey-brown, silty clay deposit, identical to the subsoil. One small fragment of bone was found in feature [3]. All three features appear likely to have been formed as a result of agricultural activity.

OD Height 73.15m	0m (NE)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29.70m (SW)
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.24m	0.24m	0.18m	0.24m	0.17m	0.23m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.15m	0.18m	0.17m	0.12m	0.15m	0.18m
Top of Natural	0.47m	0.41m	0.42m	0.35m	0.36m	0.32m	0.41m
Base of Trench	0.71m	0.56m	0.54m	0.50m	0.43m	0.45m	0.47m



Figure 7: Trench 1. Looking south-west.



Figure 8: Trench 1 Features [1], [3] and [5]. Looking north-west.

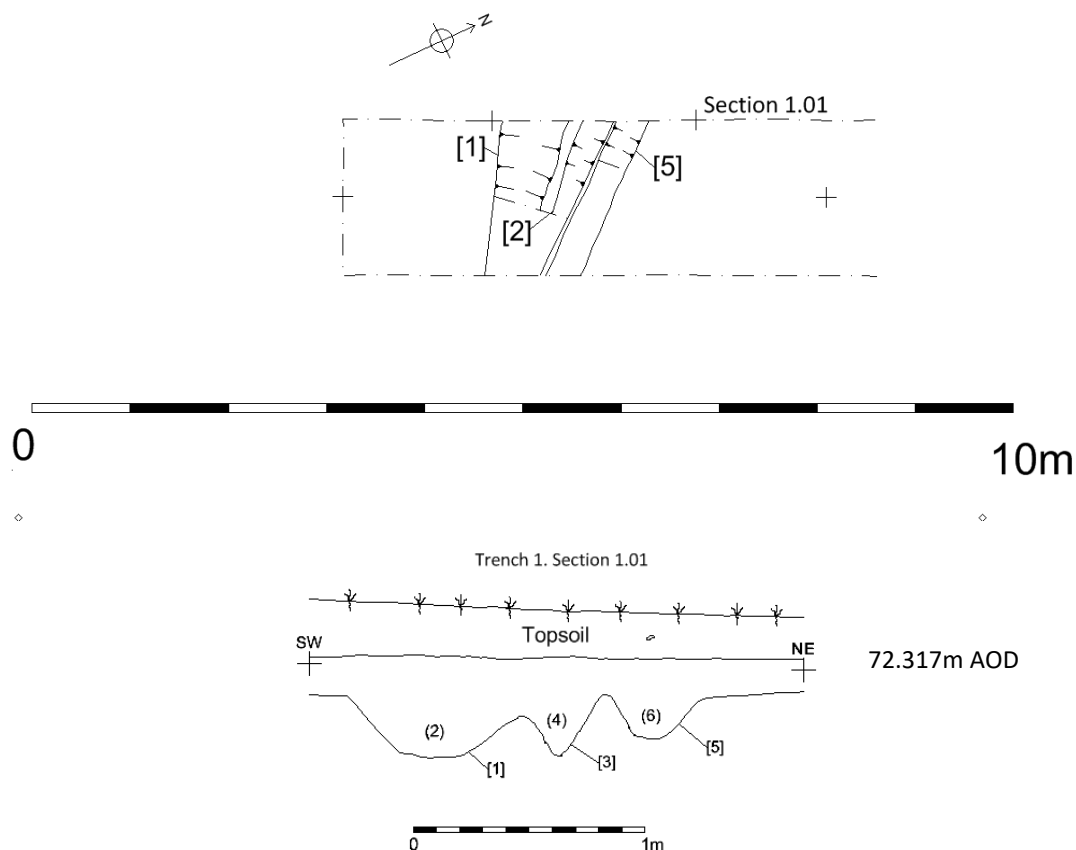


Figure 9: Trench 1, plan and section.

Trench 2

Trench 2 in the south-east corner, targeted an area of interference identified by the geophysical investigation. Excavation of the trench revealed a thin covering of turf over a layer of modern, waste building materials. This rubble layer was associated with the demolition of an agricultural building, within living memory and would account for the disturbance seen in the geophysical survey (Fig. 10).

Two possible pit features were found beneath the rubble layer. An excavated section into the most westerly of the two features, feature [7], found it to be shallow, only 0.28m deep (Figs 11-12). The sides of the feature were straight and moderately sloping and its base was flat. A light grey-brown silty clay was found to fill the feature and its resemblance to the existing subsoil is likely to suggest that this deposit had accumulated naturally through erosion of the feature sides and surrounding ground surface material. The deposit was otherwise sterile, containing no finds.

OD Height 71.77m	0m (E)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (W)
Topsoil Depth	0.23m	0.22m	0.20m	0.17m	0.21m	0.24m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.23m	0.22m	0.20m	0.17m	0.21m	0.24m	0.26m
Base of Trench	0.35m	0.30m	0.32m	0.24mm	0.34m	0.31m	0.37m



Figure 10: Trench 2. Looking east.



Figure 11: Trench 2 Feature [7]. Looking east.

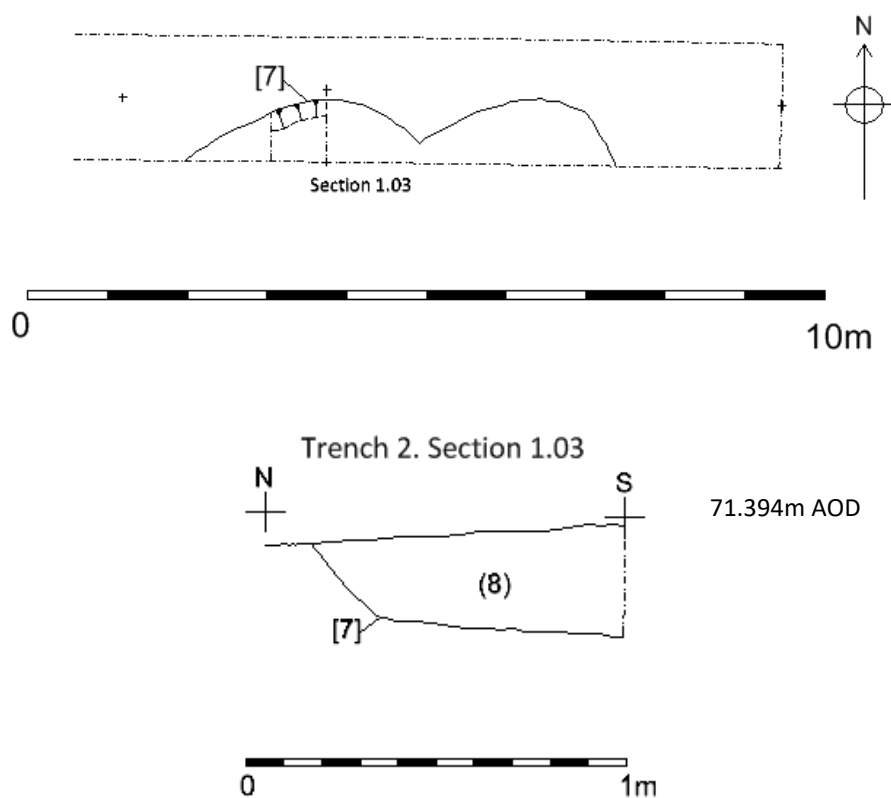


Figure 12:Trench 2, plan and section.

Trench 3

No archaeological features were found in Trench 3 (Fig. 13).

OD Height 70.74m	0m (S)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (N)
Topsoil Depth	0.24m	0.25m	0.21m	0.22m	0.34m	0.31m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.14m	0.12m	0.12m	0.13m	0.28m	0.28m
Top of Natural	0.39m	0.39m	0.33m	0.34m	0.47m	0.59m	0.58m
Base of Trench	0.53m	0.52m	0.41m	0.38m	0.58m	0.81m	0.82m



Figure 13: Trench 3. Looking north.

Trench 4

The alignment of Trench 4 was adjusted to avoid a line of trees running parallel to the southern boundary of this field. The trench targeted an area of geophysical interference. A thin layer of burnt material was found beneath the topsoil with a layer of orange brown buried soil below it. These layers were likely to have formed as a result of disposal and burning of modern waste materials and would account for the disturbance seen in the geophysical survey. Subsoil was found beneath these modern layers at a typical depth for the investigation area.

Beneath the subsoil a number of geological features were encountered. One such feature, found at the western end of the trench proved to be over 1.2m deep. At this point, machine excavation was halted without the natural clay substratum having been reached. The feature was filled with an entirely sterile brown clay. Two other features were hand excavated to order to assess their archaeological potential. They were found to be amorphous in shape and filled with a sterile yellow-brown clay. Geological feature [9] was fully recorded and photographed (Figs 14-15).

OD Height 69.17m	0m (W)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.27m	0.28m	0.37m	0.27m	0.34m	0.31m	0.40m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.53m	0.25m	0.28m	0.21m	0.23m	0.34m
Top of Natural	-	0.81m	0.62m	0.55m	0.55m	0.54m	0.74m
Base of Trench	1.20m	0.88m	0.70m	0.60m	0.58m	0.69m	0.79m



Figure 14: Trench 4. Looking west.



Figure 15: Trench 4 Feature [9]. Looking north.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was relocated in order to avoid a chestnut tree. The excavation of Trench 5 revealed the presence of two linear features. Feature [11] (Figs 17-18) was probably a drainage gully. It consisted of a steep sided, V-shaped cut, 0.36m wide and 0.3 m deep. Hand excavation of the fill found it to comprise a yellow-grey, silty clay deposit with no archaeological finds. This feature ran across the trench in an east-west direction and was likely to represent a continuation of feature [15], seen in Trench 6 (Fig. 22).

Feature [13] consisted of a 3m wide ditch like feature which appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with a mixture of ironstone rubble and grey-brown sandy silt, neither of which have been seen to occur naturally within the area of investigation. An unglazed, ceramic pipe, 0.2m in diameter, ran along the length of the feature (Figs 18- 19). It would seem likely that this feature represented a drainage ditch which had been culverted, possibly as part of landscaping/levelling activity. This feature was seen immediately beneath the topsoil layer and finds included a single sherd of abraded wheel thrown pottery dated to the 17th/18th century. A fragment of roof tile and a piece of modern brick were also found. Feature [13] appears to be a continuation of feature [17] seen in Trench 6 (Fig.21).

OD Height 69.85m	0m (N)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (S)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.29m	0.26m	0.20m	0.21m	0.20m	0.23m
Subsoil Depth	0.09m	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.37m	0.29m	0.26m	0.20m	0.21m	0.20m	-
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.42m	0.37m	0.33m	0.34m	0.29m	0.53m



Figure 16: Trench 5. Looking south.



Figure 17: Trench 5. Feature [11]. Looking east.

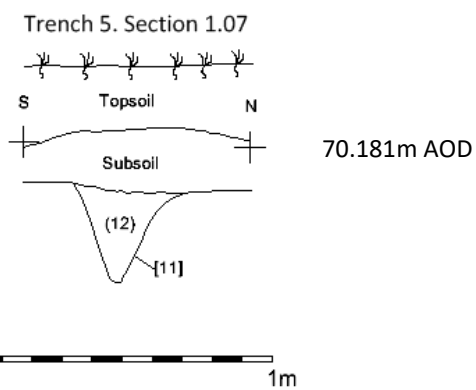
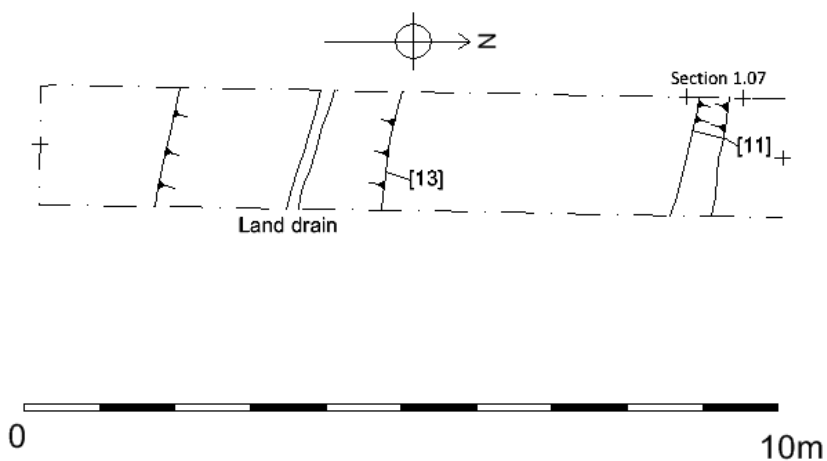


Figure 18: Trench 5, Plan and section



Figure 19: Trench 5. Feature [13]. Looking south-west.

Trench 6

Trench 6 targeted a potential linear feature, identified by the geophysical survey. Excavation of the trench revealed the same culverted ditch like feature which had been seen in Trench 5. This feature [17] was partially excavated by machine (Fig. 21). A second linear feature [15] (Fig. 22) was also observed and was likely to be a continuation of feature [11] seen in Trench 5.

One sherd of pottery was recovered from gully [15] was a fragment of wheel thrown bowl rim perhaps from Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire or Ticknall in Derbyshire and probably of post-medieval or early modern date.

OD Height 68.34m	0m (NE)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	31.5m (SW)
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.24m	0.16m	0.26m	0.26m	0.18m	0.24m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	0.29m	-	0.42m	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.26m	0.24m	0.29m	-	0.52m	0.26m	0.34m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.38m	0.32m	0.40m	0.65m	0.62m	0.38m	0.50m	0.56m



Figure 20: Trench 6. Looking south-west.



Figure 21: Trench 6. Feature [17]. Looking north-east.



Figure 22: Trench 6. Feature [15]. Looking north.

Trench 7

No archaeological features were located within Trench 7.

OD Height 67.71m	0m (W)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.22m	0.28m	0.23m	0.23m	0.19m	0.22m	0.24m
Subsoil Depth	0.13m	0.13m	0.14m	0.10m	0.10m	0.11m	0.14m
Top of Natural	0.35m	0.41m	0.37m	0.33m	0.29m	0.33m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.43m	0.47m	0.41m	0.38m	0.29m	0.38m	0.47m



Figure 23: Trench 7. Looking east.

Trench 8

No archaeological features were located within Trench 8.

OD Height 66.72m	0m (W)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.19m	0.22m	0.14m	0.06m	0.10m	0.21m	0.18m
Subsoil Depth	-	0.09m	0.10m	0.28m	0.12m	-	0.08m
Top of Natural	0.19m	0.31m	0.24m	0.34m	0.22m	0.21m	0.26m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.41m	0.28m	0.43m	0.30m	0.28m	0.42m



Figure 24: Trench 8. Looking east.

Trench 9

No archaeological features were located within Trench 9.

OD Height 66.76m	0m (NW)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (SE)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.27m	0.31m	0.26m	0.28m	0.31m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top of Natural	0.28m	0.27m	0.31m	0.26m	0.28m	0.31m	0.28m
Base of Trench	0.38m	0.45m	0.47m	0.55m	0.44m	0.46m	0.64m



Figure 25: Trench 9. Looking south-east.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was relocated in order to avoid an area of potential asbestos contamination. No archaeological features were located within Trench 10.

OD Height 69.08m	0m (ENE)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (WSW)
Topsoil Depth	0.25m	0.27m	0.25m	0.27m	0.28m	0.29m	0.30m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.25m	0.15m	0.26m	0.23m	0.26m	0.08m
Top of Natural	0.43m	0.52m	0.43m	0.53m	0.51m	0.55m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.57m	0.71m	0.52m	0.60m	0.62m	0.60m	0.38m



Figure 26: Trench 10. Looking west.

Trench 11

No archaeological features were located within Trench 11.

OD Height 66.14m	0m (W)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.24m	0.23m	0.26m	0.20m	0.25m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.50m	0.15m	0.14m	0.12m	0.11m	0.12m	0.12m
Top of Natural	0.78m	0.39m	0.37m	0.38m	0.31m	0.37m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.91m	0.45m	0.40m	0.43m	0.40m	0.37m	0.38m



Figure 27: Trench 11. Looking west.

Trench 12

No archaeological features were located within Trench 12.

OD Height 6.48m	0m (E)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m (W)
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.31m	0.23m	0.20m	0.25m	0.19m	0.21m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.18m	0.14m	0.11m	0.14m	0.27m	0.38m
Top of Natural	0.48m	0.49m	0.37m	0.31m	0.39m	0.27m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.64m	0.58m	0.46m	0.40m	0.43m	0.32m	0.49m



Figure 28: Trench 12. Looking east.

Trench 13

No archaeological features were located within Trench 13.

OD Height 64.58m	0m (W)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	31m (E)
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m	0.26m	0.24m	0.18m	0.18m	0.18m
Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.22m	0.20m	0.26m	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m	0.20m
Top of Natural	0.32m	0.42m	0.38m	0.52m	0.44m	0.38m	0.36m	0.38m
Base of Trench	0.38m	0.48m	0.44m	0.60m	0.50m	0.46m	0.40m	0.44m



Figure 29: Trench 13. Looking west.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was relocated in order to avoid overhead powerlines. No archaeological features were located within Trench 14.

OD Height 66.57m	0m (NNW)	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	31m (SSE)
Topsoil Depth	0.20m	0.14m	0.12m	0.14m	0.12m	0.16m	0.16m	0.18m
Subsoil Depth	0.20m	0.18m	0.24m	0.18m	0.12m	0.18m	0.16m	0.16m
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.32m	0.36m	0.32m	0.24m	0.34m	0.32m	0.34m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.42m	0.46m	0.42m	0.30m	0.40m	0.44m	0.46m



Figure 30: Trench 14. Looking north-west.

The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds - Deborah Sawday

The Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of two sherds, weighing 43 grams, representing two vessels. Two pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 443 grams, and a fragment of animal bone were also recorded.

Condition

The pottery was abraded, with an average sherd weight of 21.5 grams.

Methodology

The pottery was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results for the pottery, ceramic building material and bone are shown below (table1).

Discussion

The pale pinkish buff body and white clay inclusions suggest Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire (Mayes and Scott 1984) or, perhaps more likely, Ticknall in Derbyshire (Gooder 1984, 210, fig.35) as a possible source for the pottery, although as yet unknown sources to the east, perhaps near Nottingham are another possibility. The sherds are not closely dated, but similar vessels, which are often associated with dairy and milk processing, such as cheese-making, are commonly found in post medieval or early modern contexts across the county.

Conclusion

The degree of abrasion suggests that the pottery sherds have been deposited as a results of the practice manuring of the fields with night soil and other rubbish, and subsequent ploughing. The latter may tie in with the evidence of ridge and furrow in the locality, whilst ceramic building material is frequently used as hard core in rural locations to ease access through heavy clay soils and so on.

Table 1: The pottery and miscellaneous finds by context, fabric/ware/material, sherd number, and weight (grams).

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Comments
POT				
14	EA2 - Earthenware 2	1	25	Wheel thrown and abraded pale buff body with white clay (marl) and red iron ore inclusions, red iron rich slip on exterior, and traces of a lead glaze which has fired black over an iron rich slip on the interior.
16	EA2 - Earthenware 2	1	18	Wheel thrown wide mouthed bowl rim, abraded, fabric similar to the above, red iron rich slip on exterior and of a lead glaze which has fired black over an iron rich slip on the interior. Estimated diameter 200mm or more.

Ceramic Building Material				
14	EA - Earthenware	1	162	Moulded flat roof tile - of uncertain date.
14	EA - Earthenware	1	281	Brick, width 56mm (c.2 ¼ inches), modern
MISC	Material			
4	Animal bone	1	-	Large mammal bone (R. Small, pers. comm.)

Discussion and Conclusion

All of the features investigated were identified in trenches to the east of the site and nearer the village. No dating was recovered from the features identified in Trench 1 and given that these features were on the same orientation as the visible ridge and furrow, they could be agricultural in nature.

The geophysical anomalies in Trench 2 were found to be caused by a layer of modern, waste building materials, including concentrations of brick and what appeared to be fragments of corrugated asbestos. Two possible features were observed in Trench 2. No finds were recovered and the deposits were noticeably sterile possibly deriving from natural erosion processes.

Likewise the anomalies in Trench 4 the geophysical anomalies in Trench 4 were caused by a layers of burnt material likely to have formed as a result of disposal and burning of modern waste materials. Beneath this the features identified appear to be geological in origin.

The only definite archaeological features were in Trench 5 which revealed a shallow gully (thought to be a drainage gully) and a ditch which appeared to have been culverted and backfilled with iron stone rubble and small amounts of waste building materials with a land drain. One sherd of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material of similar age were found. These features were also seen in Trench 6 where a single sherd of pottery was found on the surface of the narrow gully also dating to the post-medieval period. These features are considered to be post-medieval in date and all pottery finds were likely to have been deposited as a result of the practice manuring of the fields with night soil and other rubbish.

Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A82.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-138).
- 14 Trench recording sheets.
- 2 Photo Record sheets.
- 4 Contact sheets of digital photographs.
- 1 CD digital photographs.

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.

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