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LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at
Queens Street, Measham, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 33412 12323

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No: 2020-162

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Site Name: Queen Street, Measham

Grid Ref: SK 33412 12323

Author: Nathan Flavell

Client: Londinium Investments Ltd

Planning Ref. 17/01053/FUL

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OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universil- 408928		
	Project Name	Queen Street, Measham		
	Start/end dates	17/11/2020 – 19/11/2020		
	Previous/Future Work	Unknown		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Disused/scrub		
	Monument Type/Period	Ditches – post-medieval, postholes - unknown		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery & brick – post-medieval,		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	17/01053/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Queens Street, Measham, Swadlincote, Leicestershire DE12 7JE		
	Study Area	1764.76 square metres		
	Site Coordinates	SK 33412 12323		
	Height OD	95-102m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (Harborough Borough Council)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
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PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A85.2020	X.A85.2020	X.A85.2020
	Contents	Pottery, brick	Photographs	Report, Trial trench sheets, context sheets, drawing index, drawing record, photo index., A3 permatrace sheet
PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Queens Street, Measham, Leicestershire

Nathan Flavell

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land at Queens Street, Measham, Leicestershire (SK 33412 12323), to provide preliminary indications of any heritage assets and the impact the development might have on them.

The three trenches excavated across the site revealed a number of ditches, gullies and pits probably dating to the later post-medieval period with brick and tile suggesting that some of these may be related to the demolition of outbuildings associated with the farm.

The archive for the work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A85.2020.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land north-east of Queens Street, Measham, Leicestershire DE12 7JE (NGR: SK 33412 12323) (Fig. 1).

Measham is a village in North West Leicestershire located close to the Staffordshire, and Derbyshire borders. It lies just off the A42 to the south of Ashby-de-la-Zouch within the National Forest. The proposed site is situated to the north of Measham village, in an established built-up area, 50m to the east of the High Street, and accessed off Queen Street (Fig. 2).

Outline planning approval was granted for the erection of five dwellings (ref 11/00378/OUT). A subsequent planning application (13/00969/FUL) for seven residential dwellings was refused, but a residential scheme comprising 7 no dwellings was later approved (15/01005/FUL).

The new planning permission is for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of 7 no. dwellings and associated infrastructure, but the sizes and design of the dwellings has been amended (17/01053/FUL).

A condition of the planning permission required a programme of archaeological work commencing with an initial phase of trial trenching and this report documents the results of the this initial phase.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The site is located to the rear of No 4 and the side of No 6 Queen's Street and comprises an undeveloped plot of land. Residential housing is present to the north, south and west while the

eastern boundary is home to outbuildings associated with a property which fronts onto the High Street. The site area extends to 0.475 Acres and is approximately 92m from east to west, and 25m tapering to 15.5m approx. from north to south. The site slopes from east to west, falling approximately 7m from the eastern boundary to the western boundary.

The British Geological Survey of England and Wales indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of bedrock deposits Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. (BGS 2009).

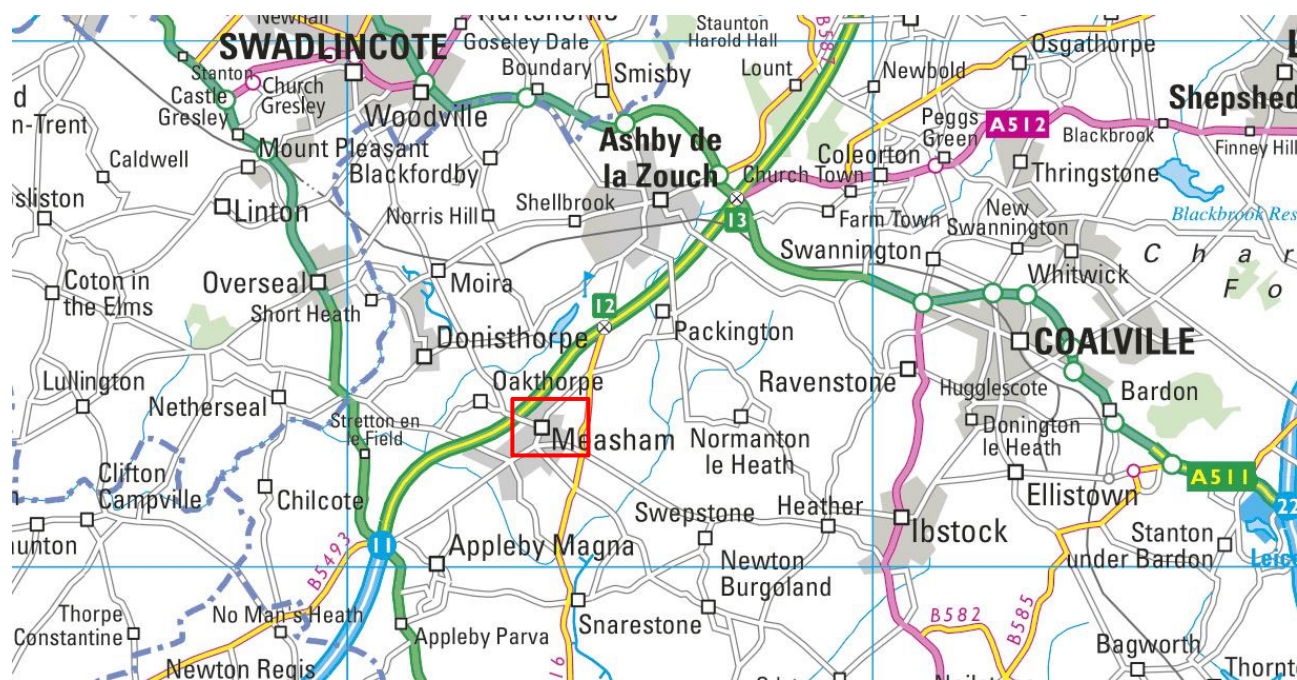


Figure 1: Site location

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the application site lies within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Measham (HER ref.: **MLE9000**). The site also lies in close proximity to the medieval 14th century parish church of St Lawrence, a grade II* listed building and designated heritage asset (**MLE10848**); the church is often situated within the heart of the settlement and tends to act as a focus for more intensive activity to that location.

The 1st edition OS map shows the site similar as it is today with a building at the east end, although there is a field boundary just to the west.

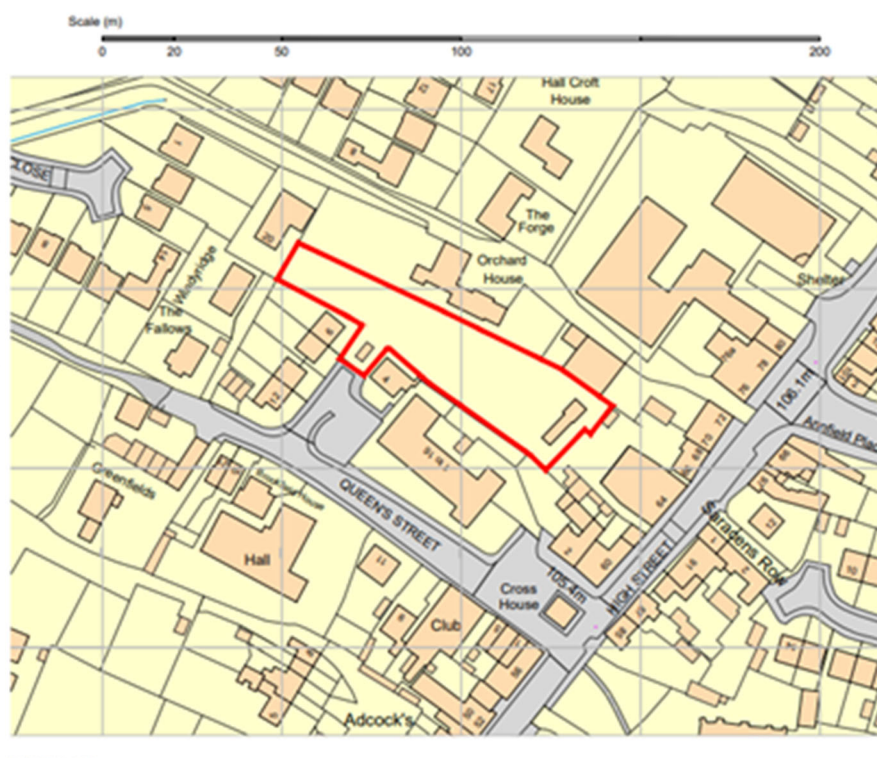


Figure 2: Site location (provided by developer)
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Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation have been defined as follows:

- 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.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the recording is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

The site has the potential to add to research objectives on the Iron Age, Roman, and notably the medieval periods, identified within *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, *Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13*, (ed. Cooper 2006), and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (ed. Knight et al 2012).

7. Medieval

7.1.1 How did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest, both within the urban core and in suburban and extra-mural areas?

8. *Post-medieval (1485-1750)*

8.1.1 Can we elucidate the roles of towns as social, administrative, industrial and commercial centres, their integration within regional marketing systems and their relationship to communication routes?

9. *Modern (1750-present)*

9.1.3 How have settlements expanded beyond their historic cores (e.g. suburban growth, peripheral housing estates and industrial parks)?

Methodology

The work followed the methodological statement set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project (Score 2020).

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2020) and adheres to their Code of Conduct (2019). The Site Accession Number (X.A85.2020) was used to identify all records and artefacts.

Three trenches measuring 20m x 1.6m were excavated. A series of post-medieval and modern ditches, gullies and post holes were encountered across the site (Fig. 3).

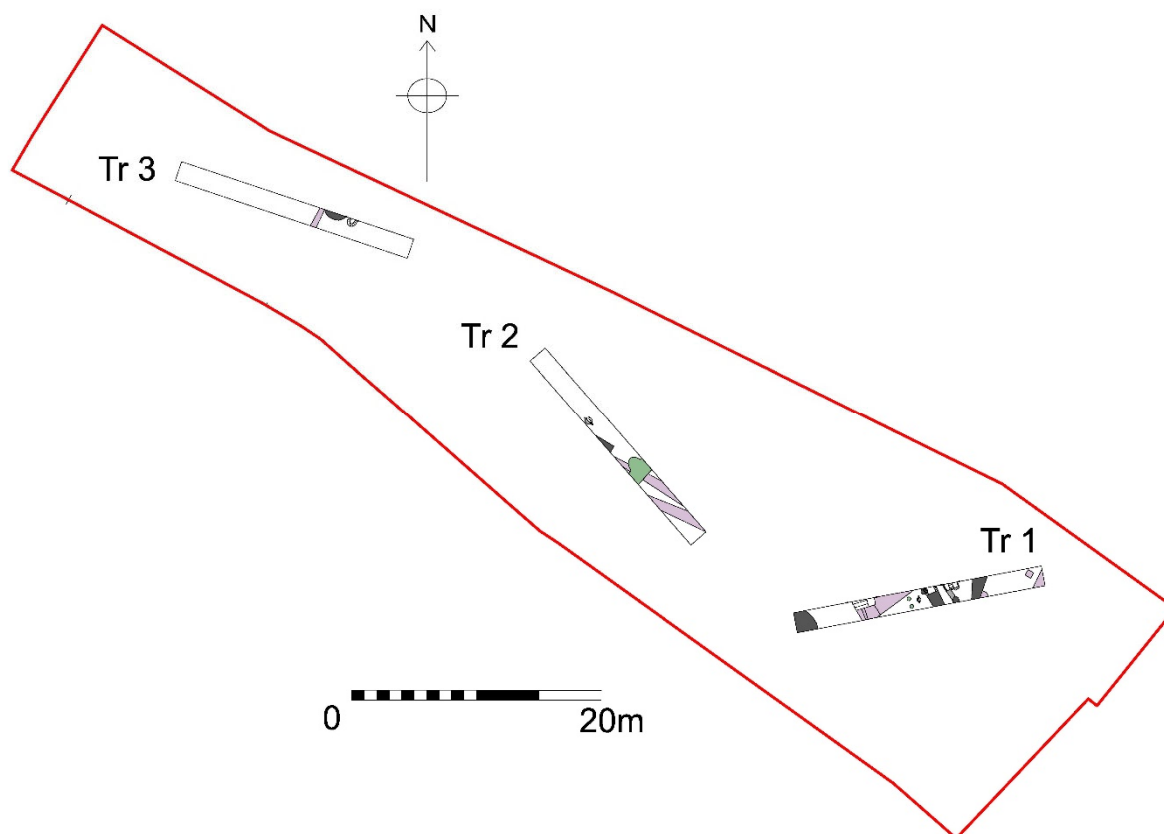


Figure 3: Site plan

Results

The natural substratum encountered was a mixed yellow-red sand in trenches 1 and 2. This changed to a pink clay sand with crushed sandstone. Subsoil across the site consisted of red-brown clay sand with pebble inclusions. Topsoil was a dark brown sandy loam.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned roughly east-west, measuring 20.2m x 1.6m (Figs. 4 & 5). This trench contained a number of ditches, pits and post-holes that mostly truncated the subsoil. A series of three gullies, [12], [14] and [16] appeared to be the earliest features (Figs. 6 & 7). Gully [14] was at least 0.4m wide and 0.22m deep terminating to the south, It was filled by (13), red-brown silty sand. It was truncated on the west side by gully [12], aligned north-west – south-east, 0.5m wide, 0.26m deep with a similar fill (11) to (13) and containing 1 small of post-medieval pot and two fragments of animal bone. This was truncated to the south by small pit [20], 0.5m in diameter, filled by (19), a mid-brown clay silt with sandstone inclusions. Cutting [14] on the east side was ditch terminus [16], most likely on the same alignment as [12]. It was 0.6m wide, 0.18m deep. The fill (15) was similar to the other two and contained a tile fragment. This gully was truncated by a modern posthole [18], filled by (17), containing charcoal and modern brick/tile fragments.

At the west end of the trench, were a series of ditches cut through the subsoil. Ditch [40] appeared to be aligned north-west – south-east, at least 0.2m wide, 0.4m deep (Figs. 8 & 9). It was filled by (39), brown-red silty sand and a fragment of brick. This was truncated on the east side by a parallel ditch [38] on the same alignment. It was around 0.8m wide, 0.66m deep and filled by (37), a similar fill to (39) and containing brick fragments and 1 x small sherd of post-medieval pot. This in turn was truncated by a perpendicular ditch, aligned north-east – south-west, [36], at least 1.4m wide, 0.6m deep. The lowest fill, (35) was brown-red silty sand, 0.2m thick. This was covered by (34), grey-brown silty sand, 0.2m thick containing a brick fragment. The latest fill (33) was brown-red silty sand, 0.15m thick and cut by a modern posthole.

Ditch [6] cut through the subsoil in the south-east corner of the trench, aligned north-east – south-west. It was filled by (5) mid red-brown silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions. Next to it was a square pit [8], 0.5x0.5m, filled by (7), a similar fill to (5).

Another small pit [10] was located just to the west, which was mostly truncated by a modern ditch [42], aligned north-east – south-west, filled by (41), dark brown sandy loam with modern brick fragments.

To the west of gullies [12], 14] and [16] was a drain aligned north-west – south-east, 1m wide (Fig. 10). It was filled by (25) red-brown silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions with large flat stone fragments at the base forming a drain. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery came from the fill. It was truncated on its west side by a small modern pit [24], 0.6x0.5m filled by (23), mid dark brown sandy clay loam with modern brick inclusions.

To the west of this was a series of postholes [28], [30] and [32] (Fig. 11). Posthole [28] was 0.35m in diameter, 0.08m deep. It was filled by (27), red-brown silty sand (Fig. 12). Postholes [30] and [32] were 0.2m in diameter, the fills (29) and (31) appeared to be topsoil and they could be root boles.

The last feature noted was a modern pit cut through the topsoil at the very west end of the trench.

OD Height: 102.41m	(E) 0m	5m	10m	15m	20.2m (W)
Topsoil depth	0.22	0.3	0.33	0.46	0.55
Subsoil depth	0.29	0.25	0.23	0.37	0.3
Depth of natural	0.51	0.55	0.56	0.83	0.85
Base of trench	0.64	0.61	0.64	0.9	0.86



Figure 4: Trench 1 looking west

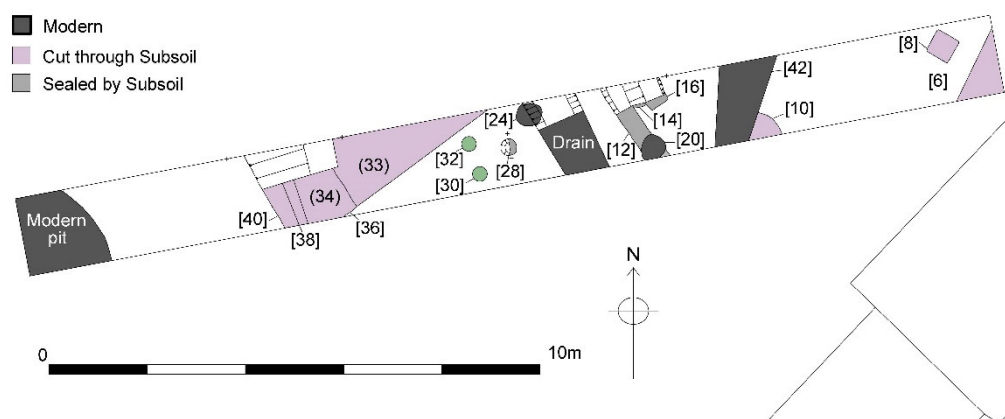


Figure 5: Trench 1 plan



Figure 6: Gullies [12], [14] and [16], posthole [18] looking north

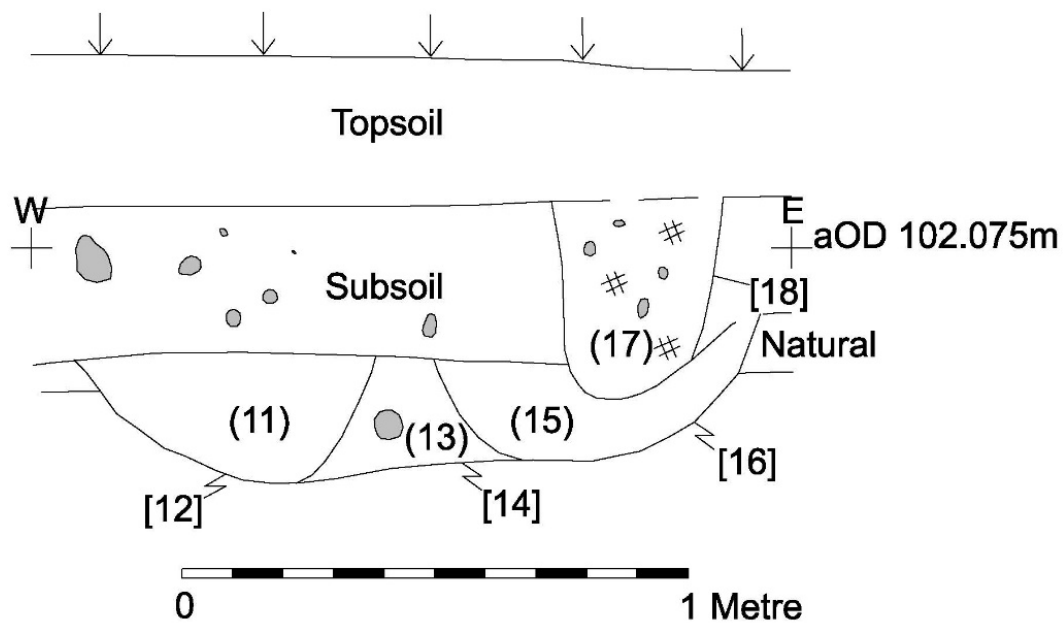


Figure 7: Gullies [12], [14] and [16], posthole [18] section



Figure 8: Ditches [36], [38] & [40] looking north

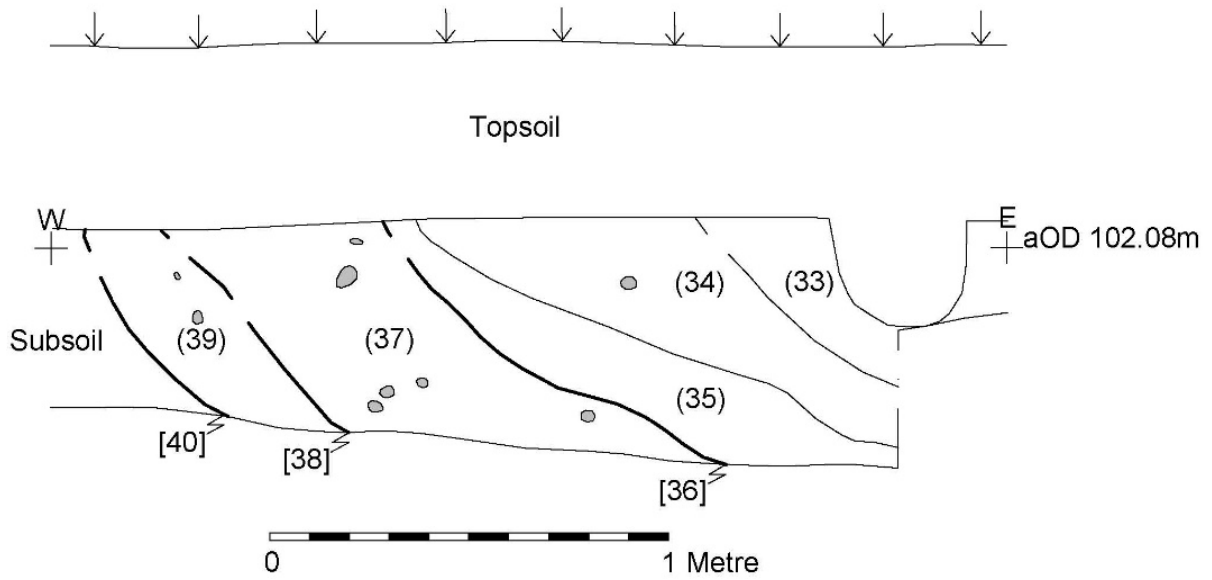


Figure 9: Ditches [36], [38] & [40] section



Figure 10: Pit [24] & drain [26] looking north-west



Figure 11: Postholes [28], [30] & [32] looking east

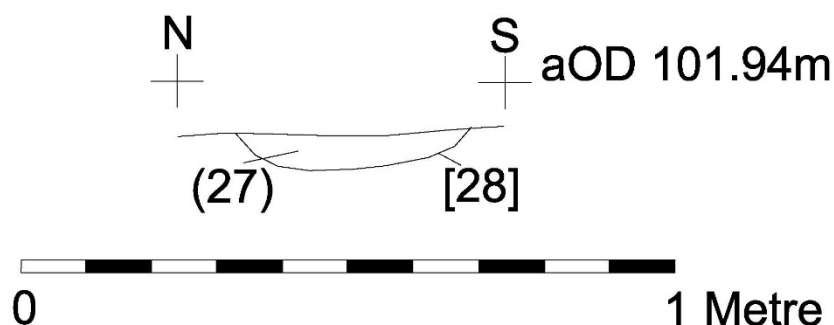


Figure 12: Posthole [28] section

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 19.6m x 1.6m (Figs. 13 & 14). Cut into the natural near the north-east end of the trench was a small pit [44] (Figs. 15 & 16). It measured 0.6 x 0.52m, 0.1m deep. It was filled by brown-red silty sand with occasional pebble inclusions. The fill was very similar to the subsoil and it was difficult to say if it truncated the subsoil.

Truncating the subsoil at the south-eastern end of the trench were a pair of ditches [46] and [48]. Both were in a generally aligned north-west – south-east. The fills (45) and (47) appeared to be similar to the subsoil and may be the same two ditches [38] and [40] found in Trench 1.

Ditch [48] was truncated by a modern ditch aligned north-east – southwest, backfilled by a mix of subsoil and natural clay with roots. This is most likely a an old boundary/hedgeline.

The square edges of a geotechnical pit or similar was also identified in this trench.

OD Height: 101.81m	(SE) 0m	5m	10m	15m	19.6m (NW)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.45	0.5
Subsoil depth	0.4	0.32	0.3	0.16	0.26
Depth of natural	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.61	0.76
Base of trench	0.74	0.8	0.73	0.63	0.8



Figure 13: Trench 2 looking north-west

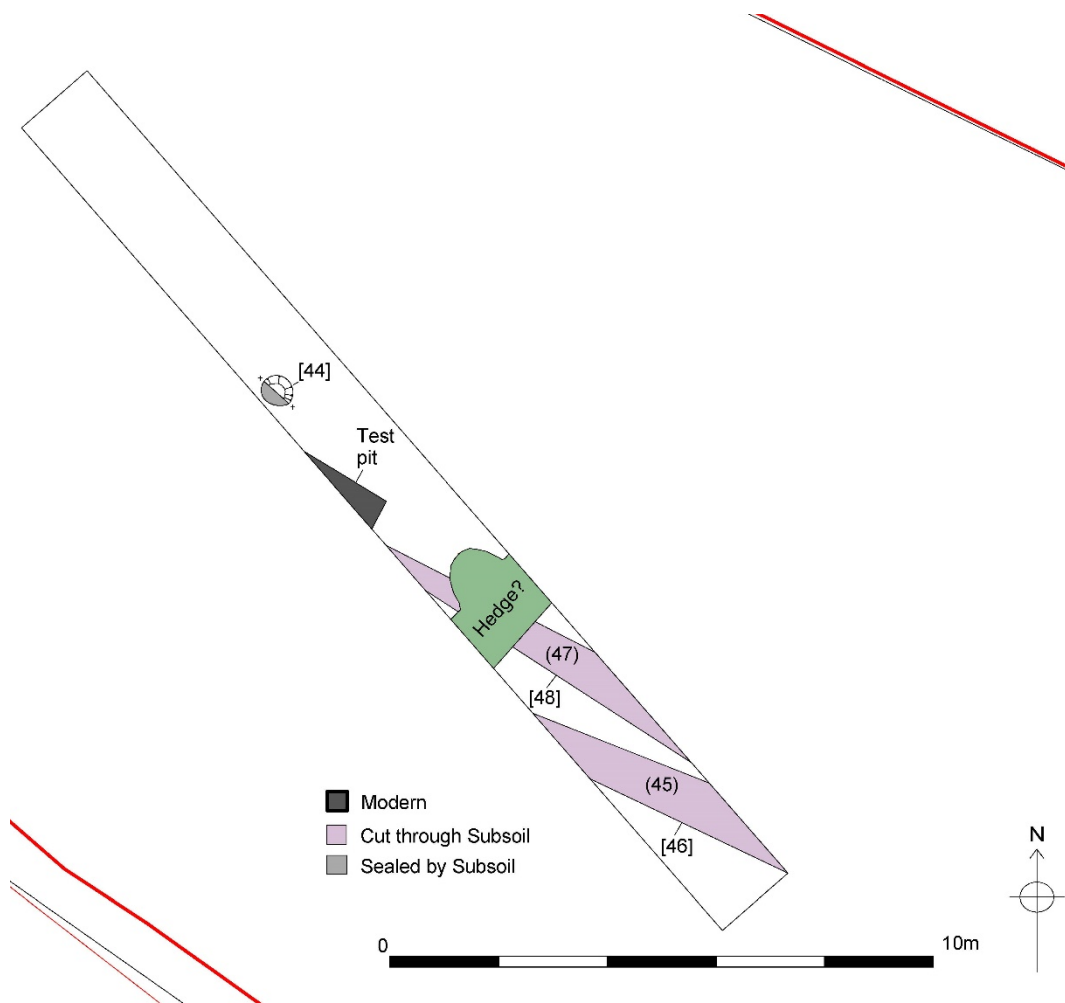


Figure 14: Trench 2 plan

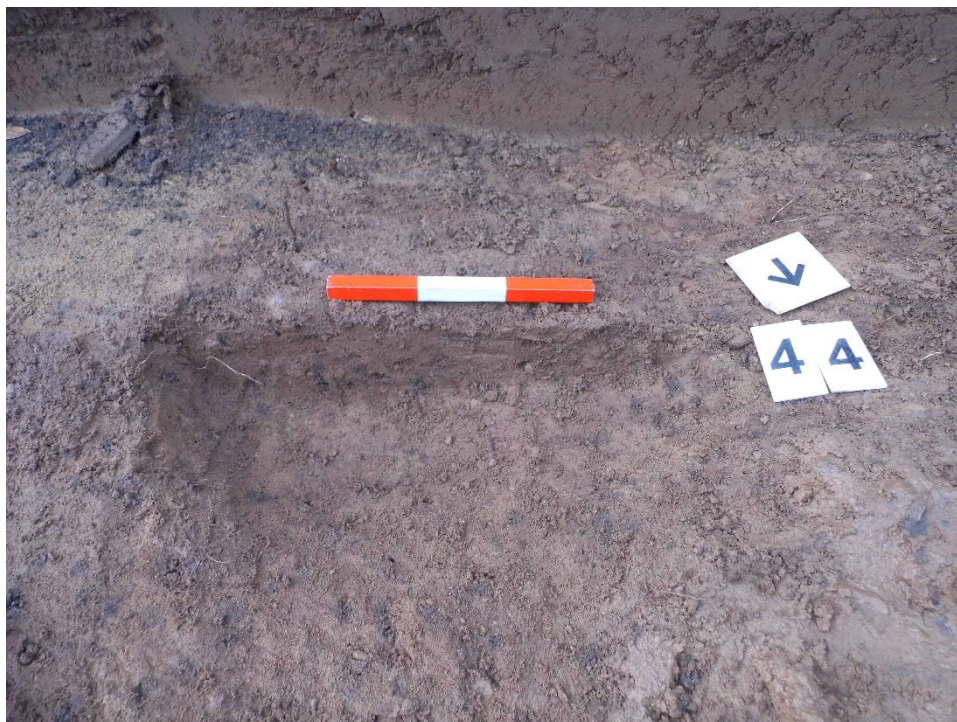


Figure 15: Posthole [44] looking south-west

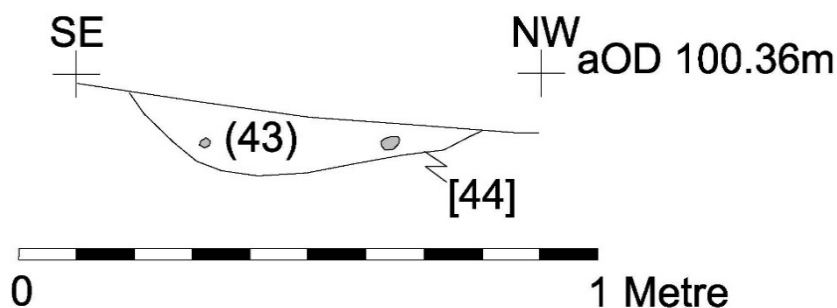


Figure 16: Posthole [44] section

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 19.6m x 1.6m (Figs. 17 & 18). Cut into the natural substratum was a pit or ditch terminus [2], possibly aligned north-east - south-west, with a steep profile, 0.8m wide, 0.26m deep (Figs. 19 & 20). It was filled by (1), orange-red-brown sandy clay with occasional pebble inclusions and 3 fragments of baked clay. This seemed to be sealed by the subsoil. Another north-east - south-west aligned ditch, [4] was located to the east, this one truncating the subsoil. It was filled by (3), mixed brown silty sand with stone and modern brick inclusions. Located between the two ditches was a pit containing modern debris.

OD Height: 97.39m	(NW) 0m	5m	10m	15m	19.6m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.26	0.23	0.3	0.43	0.5
Subsoil depth	0.32	0.36	0.33	0.24	0.32
Depth of natural	0.58	0.59	0.63	0.67	0.82
Base of trench	0.58	0.64	0.7	0.73	0.85



Figure 17: Trench 3 looking north-west

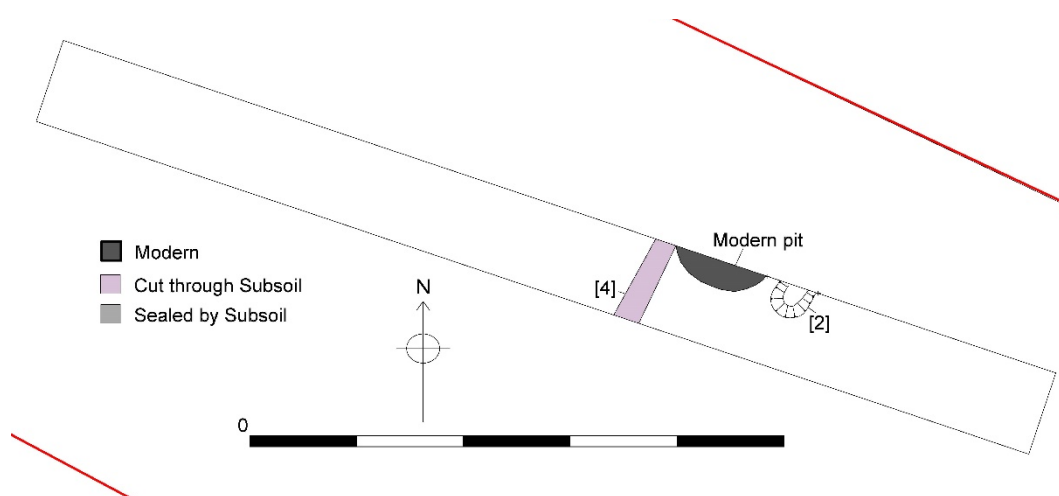


Figure 18: Trench 3 plan



Figure 19: Ditch [2] looking north-east

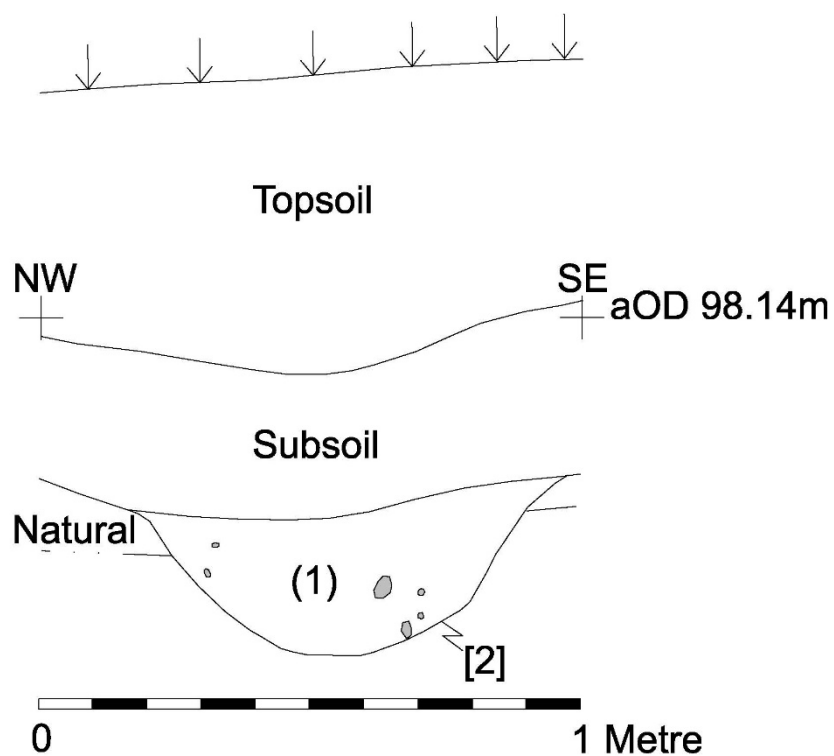


Figure 20: Ditch [2] section

Post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone - *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Introduction

A small assemblage of pottery, brick and floor tile, together with two fragments of animal bone were recovered from eight contexts across the site. The pottery was analysed by form and fabric in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016), using the Leicestershire County Museums post-Roman pottery fabric series Davies and Sawday 1999, 166) and quantified by sherd count and weight (g).

Analysis

Four small sherds of post-medieval earthenware (Fabric EA1 c.1500-1750) were recovered from (11); (25) and (37). Fragments of post-medieval (pre-19th century) brick were recovered from (23); (34) and (37), and possible floor tile from (15) and (39). Three fragments of baked clay came from (1).

Two fragments of bone from the lumbar vertebra of a large mammal (cattle or horse) also came from (11).

Catalogue of finds

Context	Description
1	3 x frags of baked clay (too soft for fired) 4g
11	1 x p/med frag 2g. 2 joining frags of animal bone 25g. Large lumbar vertebrae (cattle or horse)
15	1 tile fragment, think small square floor tile 128g-3 straight sides. c.52mm x c.52mm, depth 23mm,
23	1 brick with 3 sides 81g
25	1 p/med sherd pot 4g, 1 pancheon pot sherd 11g
34	Brick frag 1,137g, L.110mm xW.85mm xD.55mm
37	1x ?brick frag 457g L.70 mm x W.100mm x D.55mm, 1 x CBM frag 3g, 1 x pot frag p/med 2g
39	Brick frag 32g 3 sides 35mm x 31mm x 25mm.

Conclusion

The evaluation on land on east side of Queens Street had the potential for archaeological remains as the site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village. All of the trenches contained features with numerous gullies, pits and ditches particularly to the south, closer to the High Street. The fact that many cut the subsoil and the fragments of brick and pottery suggest the majority of these features are later post-medieval in date, with a number of later modern features in all three trenches.

The overall lack of pottery suggests that at least some of the features are likely to be boundary ditches, although only one north-south ditch is visible on the 1st edition OS probably located between trenches 1 and 2. The presence of brick and tile indicates demolished buildings – perhaps outbuildings associated with the earlier farm.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums. An accession number (X.A85.2020) has been requested and will be used to identify the records. The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2020-162)
- 3 trial trench recording sheets
- 44 context sheets
- 1 drawing index
- 1 drawing record sheet
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 A3 permatrace sheet
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- Digital contact sheet

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.

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