



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land
At The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 46693 00549**

Wayne Jarvis



**ULAS Report No: 2021-155
©2021**

Site Name: The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire

Grid Ref: SK 46693 00549

Author: Wayne Jarvis

Client: Marcus Palmer

Planning Refs. 21/00318/FUL

ULAS Job No: 21/089

ULAS Report No: 2021-155

Accession Number: X.A65 2021

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date	Notes
2021-155 Draft	G. Speed	29/10/2021	Draft to client

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party and project for which it has been commissioned and should not be relied upon or used by any other person/party or for any other project without the written consent of ULAS. No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent. While every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, however, ULAS cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies contained within this report

University of Leicester, Archaeological Services,
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

© ULAS 2021

OASIS RECORD

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 502529		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land at The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates	18/10/21-19/20/21		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Archaeological Strip Map and Sample		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Agricultural land - pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	21/00318/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Leicestershire		
	Site Address/Postcode	The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire, LE9 7RJ		
	Study Area	0.24 hectares		
	Site Coordinates	SK 46693 00549		
	Height OD	97m-100m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (Leicestershire County Council)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Gavin Speed		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Wayne Jarvis		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Marcus Palmer		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A65 2021	X.A65 20201	X.A65 2021
	Contents	None	Photographs	Report/ watching brief form, photo index.
PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	Title	An Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation on Land at The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire		
	Author	Wayne Jarvis		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2021-155		
	Date	2021		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Location, Geology and Topography	2
Historical and Archaeological Background	5
Aims and Objectives	5
Research Objectives	5
Methodology	6
Monitoring.....	6
Results.....	6
Conclusions.....	10
Archive and Publication.....	10
Acknowledgements.....	10
References.....	11

Figures

Figure 1: Site location.....	2
Figure 2: Detail of site location. Plan provided by client	3
Figure 3: General view of site prior to commencing groundworks, looking north. Ridge and furrow can be seen crossing the area. The Manor buildings can be seen in the background. ...	4
Figure 4: The ridge and furrow is clear from this angle, looking south-east. In the left background, in the valley bottom, is the large manor pond.....	4
Figure 6: Google aerial view of site. Ridge and furrow is visible in the photograph. Cf Figure 5 for site area.....	7
Figure 7: Site area after turf removal, looking north-east. The corrugations of the ridge and furrow are clear	8
Figure 8: Soil strip, looking north-east towards The Manor.....	8
Figure 9: Site area after stripping, looking north-west. Remnants of furrows can be seen cutting the natural.....	9
Figure 10: Cont'd, after stripping, looking west.....	9
Figure 11: North-south earthwork, possible hollow way, to south-east of the site, with ridge and furrow continuing to the west (right) of it. Looking south.	9

An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land at The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire NGR: SK 46693 00549

Wayne Jarvis

Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation that was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 46693 00549). The work was carried out in October 2021 on behalf of Marcus Palmer in advance of the construction of a new ménage.

The site lies on the edge of the village of Peckleton and consists of pasture land south of the moated manor site, which is thought to have medieval origins. There is also evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity.

The fieldwork identified ridge and furrow earthworks within the site area, confirmed during the soil stripping. These could be associated with the medieval village earthworks to the north. Further earthworks were observed continuing to the south and east of the site. During the groundworks no other evidence for archaeological remains was identified, and no artefacts were recovered during the works.

The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service with the accession number X.A65 2021.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (MHCLG 2021) this document forms the report for a programme of archaeological mitigation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 46693 00549). The work was carried out on behalf of Marcus Palmer.

Planning permission has been obtained for the proposed erection of a ménage on land to the south of The Manor (21/00318/FUL) and the permission includes a condition for archaeological work.

The application site lies on the southern edge of the historic settlement core of Peckleton, and close to the medieval moated site of the manor house. Earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village of Peckleton have been recorded to the north and north-west of the site. There is also evidence for significant finds of Anglo-Saxon date to the east of the site, and there is documentary evidence for a mound, possibly a prehistoric tumulus, to the north of the site.

As a consequence of this the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire as advisor to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council recommended mitigation by strip, map and sample excavation and recording (preservation by record), covering the footprint of the ménage, prior to the commencement of any groundworks for the development.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

Peckleton is a small village and civil parish in the Hinckley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire, England, 7 miles west of the centre of Leicester. The site is located on pasture land adjacent to The Manor to the south of Manor Lane (Figure 1-Figure 2).

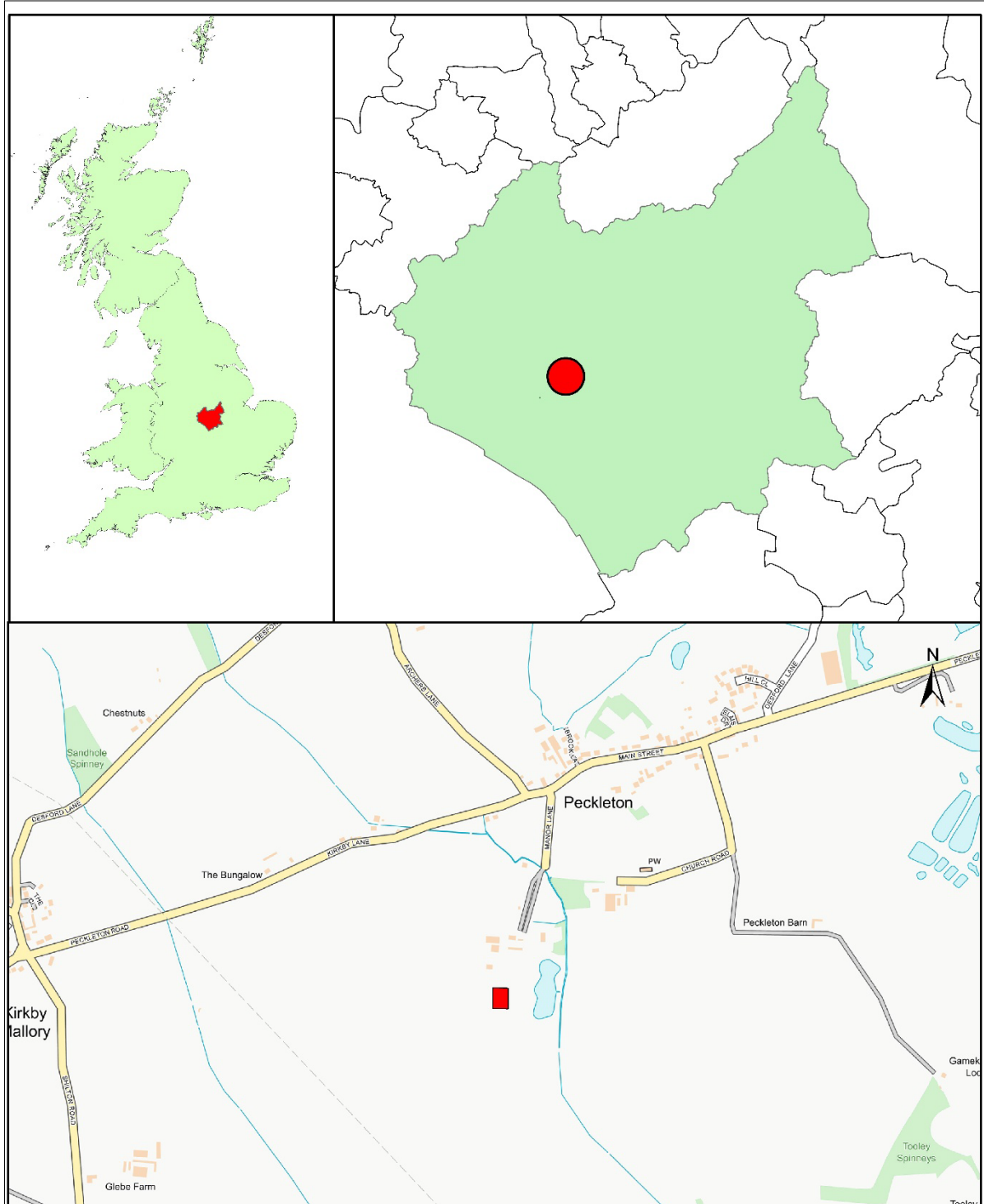


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Detail of site location. Plan provided by client

The development area comprises approximately 0.24 hectares of pasture land to the south of Manor Lane, centred at SK 46693 00549. It is bounded in all directions by further fields, arable to the west and pasture elsewhere. Beyond, to the north and east are the gardens of The Manor, with a large pond in the valley at the east. The topography of the site is gently sloping down to the east and south and the site sits at 100m above Ordnance datum (aOD) in the west (Figure 3-Figure 4).

The site consists of a single field, bounded on the west and south by a hedge, and on other sides by wooden fencing, and was under grass at the time of the excavation. The British Geological Survey has mapped the site. The underlying geology is likely to consist of mudstone (Gunthorpe member), with alluvium potentially present to the east.



Figure 3: General view of site prior to commencing groundworks, looking north. Ridge and furrow can be seen crossing the area. The Manor buildings can be seen in the background.



Figure 4: The ridge and furrow is clear from this angle, looking south-east. In the left background, in the valley bottom, is the large manor pond

Historical and Archaeological Background

The proposed site lies close to known heritage assets with an archaeological interest. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) records that 100m to the north is the medieval moated site of the manor house (HER refs: MLE13083 and MLE3042). Notes in the HER appear to show ridge and furrow in an E-W direction in the area of the proposed new development. The site lies within the historic settlement core of the village (MLE16887). Earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village of Peckleton have been recorded approximately 75m to the north and north-west of the site (MLE3008). These were surveyed in the 1980s, and to the west of the Manor House the earthworks include a hollow way flanked by traces of former buildings. There is documentary evidence for a prehistoric tumulus or mound believed to be located approximately 40m to the north of the site (MLE3030). This was reported in 1907 that a mound or tumulus stood near the Manor House, there is now no trace of a mound and nothing is marked on OS mapping. In 1972 a disturbed area in a field south-east of Manor House and a circular statue at its centre was recorded. A scatter of rare Anglo-Saxon finds located further to the east is a strong indication of associated settlement in this location (MLE24147).

The Manor house is grade II listed, on a moated site which is considered to be medieval in date, and the current structure is dated at 1787 with some possible earlier work inside (HE 2021). The Manor deeds of 1755 record that the estate included a water corn mill, a windmill and a dove house (HT 2021). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 shows the proposed site within a field, largely as seen today.

Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were defined as follows:

- Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits.
- Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in the WSI.
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Objectives

Excavations may contribute to knowledge on rural settlement, landscape and society. Information on the sequence and chronology of boundaries and their relationship to settlements may be recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas.

- The site has the potential to add to research objectives on the medieval and post-medieval / modern 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), and updated here: <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/research-agenda/>

6. Early Medieval

6.1 Demography and the identification of political and social groups

- 6.4 Rural settlement patterns
- 6.7 The agricultural economy and rural landscape
- 7. *High Medieval*
- 7.2 Rural settlement
- 7.3 Manors and manorial estates
- 7.7 The agrarian landscape and food-producing economy

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

Methodology

The work followed the methodological statement set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project (Speed 2020). All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (updated 2020) and adhered to their *Code of Conduct* (updated 2020). The archaeological work was carried out on 18-19/10/2021. The area was stripped using a 360° tracked excavator provided by the client's contractor, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket with all excavation work supervised by the archaeologist. The designated area for strip, map and sample was the footprint of the new ménage. The Site Accession Number (X.A65 2021) was used to identify all records.

Monitoring

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken with the project manager, to ensure that project targets were met and professional standards maintained. Provision was made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

Results

The excavation comprised the area of the ménage, 45m north-south by 35m east-west. Initial observations identified that ridge and furrow was surviving across the proposed site area (Figure 5). These consisted of east-west earthworks, with a wavelength of some 7m and a depth from top of ridge to base of furrow at current ground level of c.0.2m. The ridge and furrow continued to the east and to the south beyond the current site. To the west in the adjacent field the earthworks were not present, although this field is under arable agriculture, so earthworks may have been ploughed out. Further beyond the site to the south-east a likely hollow way survived as an earthwork bounding the east edge of this ridge and furrow area, and heading north-south.

Archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the machine excavation of overburden across the area of the proposed development using a tracked 360° machine to ascertain whether archaeology was present. In general the depth of the stripping was between 0.4m and 0.5m in depth. The majority of material removed consisted of a dark grey sandy clay topsoil of c.0.3m in depth. This overlay a subsoil, a mid orangeish brown sandy clay, up to 0.15m deep. Natural below this consisted of a red clay with patches of orange sandy clay with gravel. Seven furrows survived cutting the natural ground at the stripped level, to a depth of c.0.2m. Running centrally along the base of the furrows were a series of ceramic land drains, these were complete circular drainpipes but looked to be of some antiquity. No other features were observed, and no artefacts were recovered during the fieldwork.



Figure 5: Google aerial view of site. Ridge and furrow is visible in the photograph. Cf **Error! Reference source not found.** for site area

Imagery ©2021 Bluesky, CNES/Airbus Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar technologies, Map data ©2021



Figure 6: Site area after turf removal, looking north-east. The corrugations of the ridge and furrow are clear



Figure 7: Soil strip, looking north-east towards The Manor



Figure 8: Site area after stripping, looking north-west. Remnants of furrows can be seen cutting the natural...



Figure 9: Cont'd, after stripping, looking west.



Figure 10: North-south earthwork, possible hollow way, to south-east of the site, with ridge and furrow continuing to the west (right) of it. Looking south.

Conclusions

The archaeological strip, map and sample programme at The Manor, Peckleton identified ridge and furrow evidence that can be associated with the medieval village earthworks to the north. No other features were identified, and no artefacts were recovered during the works.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service with accession number X.A65 2021 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2021-155)
- 1 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 CD of digital photographs

A summary of this report will appear in due course in the Transactions the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. The University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS data entry has been completed detailing the results of the project and will be digitally accessible through The Archaeological Data Services (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank the client Marcus Palmer for the work. The excavation was directed by Wayne Jarvis. The work was managed by Dr Gavin Speed.

Wayne Jarvis

Project Officer, ULAS

wj5@le.ac.uk

References

BGS British Geological Survey 2020

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), rev. 2021, *Code of Conduct*.

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), revised 2020, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) rev. 2020, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Cooper, N.J., (ed.) 2006, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13.

HE 2021 Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1074203>

HT 2021 Hinckley Times *Past Times: A history of Peckleton*
<https://www.hinckleytimes.net/news/local-news/past-times-history-peckleton-12188375>

Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. 2012, *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.

LMARS, 2014, *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*.

MHCLG, (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Speed, G., 2020, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map, Sample Excavation. Site: The Manor, Manor Lane, Peckleton, Leicestershire, LE9 7RJ*. ULAS.



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
UK

t: +44 (0)116 252 2848

f: +44 (0)116 252 2614

e: ulas@le.ac.uk

