



**Archaeological  
Research  
Services Ltd**

**Piggin Wood, Ockbrook, Derbyshire  
Watching Brief in Advance  
Of Construction of a Telecommunications Mast**



**ARS Ltd Report 2006/12**  
April 2006

---

**Compiled By:**  
James Brightman  
Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Suite 7 Angel House  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1HB

**Checked By:**  
Dr. Clive Waddington

Tel: 01629 814540  
Fax: 01629 814657  
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com  
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

---

**Piggin Wood, Ockbrook, Derbyshire  
Watching Brief in Advance  
Of Construction of a Telecommunications Mast**

**ARS Ltd Report 2006/12**

April 2006

**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

---

**Contents**

Executive Summary.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Background.....	2
3. Aims of the Project.....	4
4. Methodology.....	4
5. Summary of the Results.....	4
6. Conclusions.....	5
7. Archive and Publication.....	5
8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	5
9. Statement of Indemnity.....	5
10. Acknowledgments.....	6
References.....	7
Appendix One – Brief .....	8

***Executive Summary***

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Galliford Try Communications at Piggyn Wood, Ockbrook, Derbyshire (National Grid Reference SK 4271 3707) on April 4th 2006. This comprised observation of all groundworks to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits. Despite the proximity of known Romano-British archaeological remains, no archaeological features or finds were encountered.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The watching brief at Piggin Wood, near Ockbrook was undertaken by James Brightman of Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Galliford Try Communications during the initial stages of construction of a new telecommunications mast.

## 2. Background

2.1 The site for the telecommunications mast lies within the fenced area of trees known as 'Piggin Wood' at SK 4271 3707, approximately 600m north of the village of Ockbrook, Derbyshire (Figs 1 and 2).

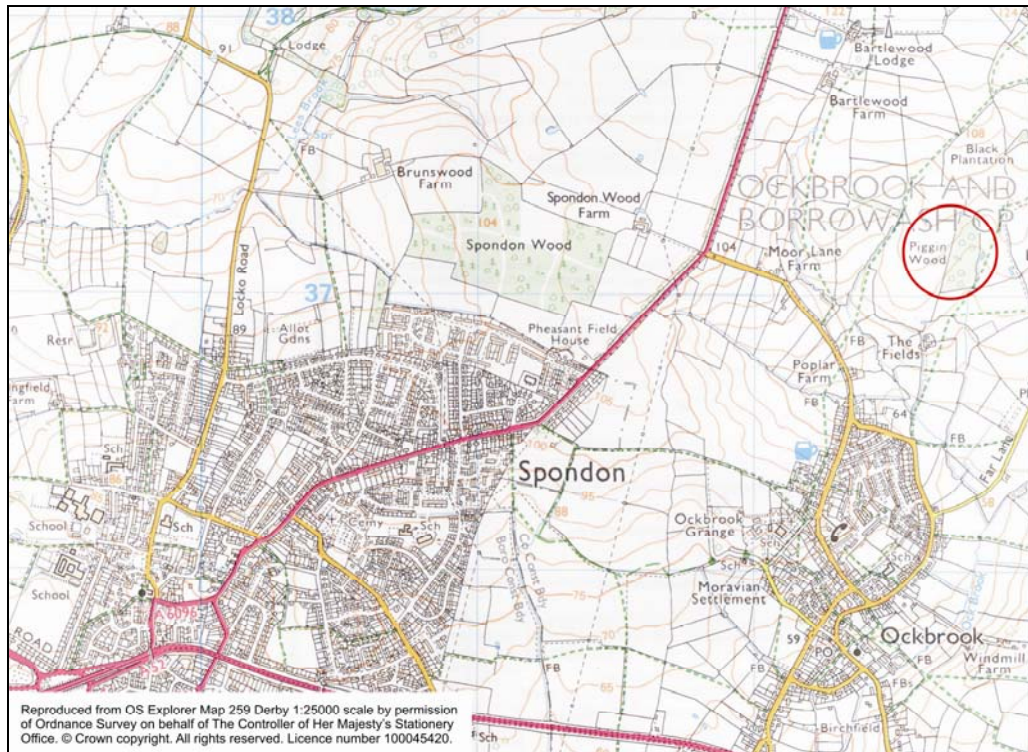


Fig. 1 Location of Piggin Wood, Ockbrook.

2.2 The site in Piggin Wood lies in the centre of a number of fields that were investigated by the Ockbrook and Borrowwash Archaeological Society through fieldwalking. This investigation yielded a general spread of Romano-British finds with large concentrations in a field 250m east of the site, and another 250m west of the site (Palfreyman 2001, 71-2). The spread of artefacts to the east, by Little Hay Grange Farm, was excavated by the Ockbrook and Borrowwash Historical Society along with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, the Ilkeston and District Local History Society and the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust. The excavations revealed an Iron Age ditch system and a Romano-British, stone-built aisled building (Palfreyman 2001, 75-92). In fields near the Little Hay Grange Farm to the east of the site, a silver *lanx* (ceremonial tray) dating to the fourth century AD was found in 1729 (Myers 2004, 10).

**Fig. 2**



### 3. Aims of the Project

- 3.1 The project consisted of an archaeological watching brief on excavations for the telecommunications mast, which aimed to preserve by record any archaeological deposits exposed during the course of the work.

### 4. Methodology

- 4.1 All machine excavation on the site was observed by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed. Any features or structures were to be fully cleaned and recorded in accordance with the standards stipulated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the guidance provided in 'Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions' (English Heritage 2003).

### 5. Summary of Results

- 5.1 An area 10m by 6m was prepared as the base of the telecommunications mast by stripping topsoil from the western end and banking this at the eastern end to form a flat platform. The topsoil across the site varied in depth. In the north west corner of the larger area, it was at its deepest (0.22m) (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Northwest corner of the larger 'base' area where the greatest depth of topsoil was stripped to make up the eastern end.

- 5.2 When the larger base had been prepared, a square of 4.7m sides was excavated in the centre down to a depth of 0.9m. This was taken off in spits by the mechanical digger until it was evident that the natural had been reached with no signs of archaeological deposits.



Fig. 4 North facing section of the central pit showing the depth of topsoil (some redeposited) overlying the clay substratum (scale=1m).

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 Despite the proximity of Romano-British archaeological remains, as noted in the Background section above, no archaeological deposits or structures were encountered, and no artefactual evidence was found on the site.

## **7. Archive and Publication**

- 7.1 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client, the Development Control Officer at Derbyshire County Council, the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record, and also online with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS Project), as stipulated by the Development Control Officer.

## **8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

- 8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **9. Statement of Indemnity**

- 9.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the

basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the smooth running of the project on the ground. In particular ARS Ltd would like to thank Andrew Everton and the works team of Galliford Try Communications.



## References

English Heritage. 2003. *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions*. London, English Heritage.

Myers, A.M. 2004. *East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment of Roman Derbyshire*. Leicester, Leicester University.

Palfreyman, A. 2001. 'Report on the Excavation of a Romano-British Aisled Building at Little Hay Grange Farm, Ockbrook, Derbyshire 1994-7?'. *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* 121: 70-161.

## Appendix 1. Brief for a Conditioned Archaeological Watching Brief

SITE NAME: **Piggin Wood, Fields Farm, off Far Lane, Ockbrook**

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: ERE/1204/0039

NGR: SK 42708 37066

ISSUED BY: A. M. Myers (Development Control Archaeologist)

ISSUED TO: *Archaeological Research Services Ltd*

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Planning application ERE/1204/0039 has received planning consent to construct a 22.5m high telecom mast with 6 antennae and 4 dish antennae, radio equipment cabinets, electricity meter cabinet and ancillary development.

1.2 A condition of the planning consent requires that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken prior to the development.

1.3 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced.

1.4 This document is a brief for the conditioned archaeological work.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 The proposal involves construction in an area of woodland, Piggin Wood, to the west of Little Hay Grange farm and north of Fields Farm, This will involve excavations for establishing the foundations for the antennae, cabinets and ancillary development.

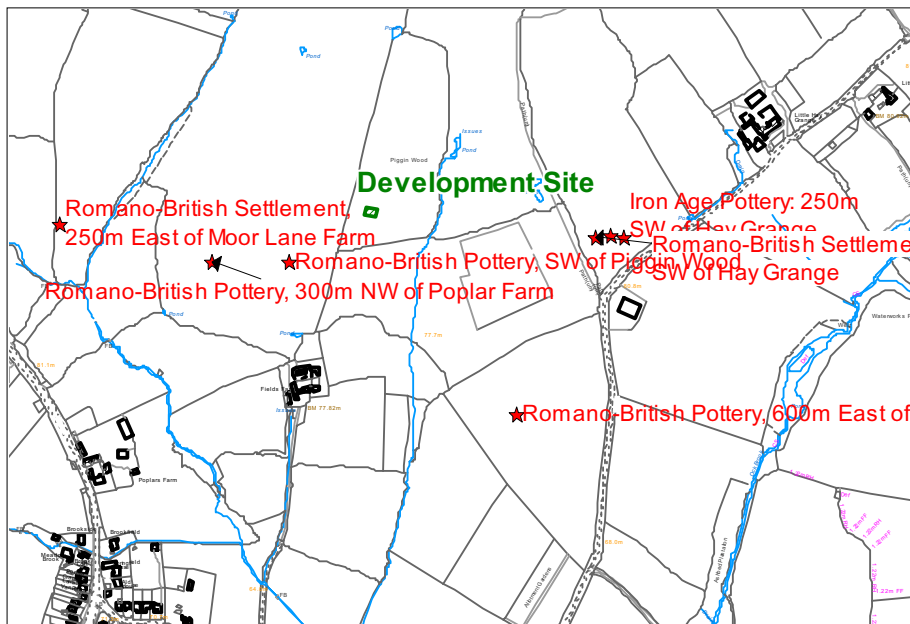


Fig. 1: Location of the development site

2.2 The proposed development falls amongst a number of fields that were investigated by Ockbrook and Borrowash Archaeological Society who undertook surface collection survey from their ploughed surfaces. A field to the east produced a dense concentration of Romano-British pottery suggesting that there was a farmstead or other habitation hard against Far Lane.

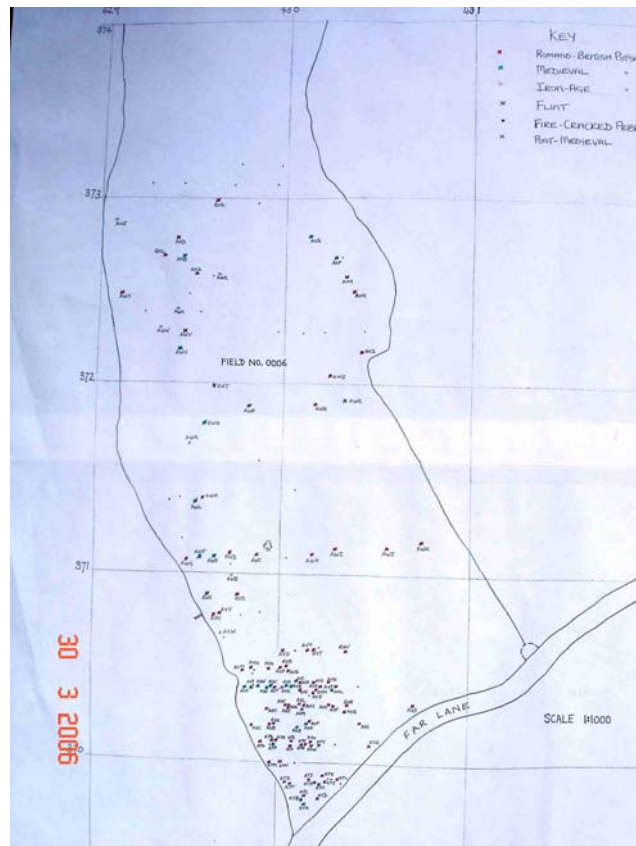


Fig. 2: Distribution of pottery finds in field east of the development.

### 3.0 Objective

3.1 The conditioned watching brief should provide for achieving an appropriate level of *preservation by record* for any archaeological deposits exposed during the development groundworks

### 4.0 Programme of Fieldwork (strip, map and record)

4.1 The appointed archaeological contractor shall maintain a watching brief during all ground works and activity that may cause disturbances to the ground surface or expose buried archaeological features.

4.2. During the watching brief should any potential layers, features, structures or finds be exposed the archaeological contractor should be afforded sufficient time to clean, excavate, sample and record the archaeology. The watching brief will not entail archaeological excavation beyond the areas exposed by the development works.

4.3 All archaeological fieldwork, recording of archaeological features and deposits and post-excavation analysis should be carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. The contractor will be expected to abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and to follow the guidance provided in “Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions” (English Heritage 2003).

4.4 The appointed archaeologists should undertake a site risk assessment and operate at all times with due regard to health and safety regulations.

### **5.0 Monitoring**

5.1 During the course of the fieldwork the DCA may undertake monitoring visits.

5.2 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the archaeological contractor should contact the DCA and arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit. Your contact will be:

Dr. Andrew Myers,  
Development Control Archaeologist,  
Derbyshire County Council,  
Shand House,  
Dale Road South,  
Matlock,  
Derbyshire DE4 3RY

Andy.myers@derbyshire.gov.uk  
Tel: 01629 585146  
Mob: 07781 850742  
Fax: 01629 585507

### **6.0 Finds**

6.1 Artefact collection policy should be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials should be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see **9.0 Archive Deposition** below).

### **7.0 Human Remains**

7.1 In the event of human remains being encountered site works will cease and the Coroner's office notified. Such remains will remain *in situ* until authorised to continue by the Coroner and a Home Office licence obtained. The Coroner for Derby and South is,

Mr P. G. Ashworth,  
St Katherins House,  
St. Marys Wharf,  
Mansfield Road,  
Derby DE1 3TQ  
Tel: 01332 294942

7.2 Analysis of any human remains will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

### **8.0 Report**

8.1 The preparation of the report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

8.2 Upon completion of the fieldwork a full report will be produced and copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the CA and the Derbyshire SMR.

8.3 The report should include as a minimum,

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusion
- Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data.
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication (see 8.5, 10.1)
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements (see 9.3)
- Copy of this brief

8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts should be supplied to the SMR and deposited with the archive either as colour slides, or as digital images on a CD ROM.

8.5 A short summary report (see notes attached) should be supplied as hard copy and a PDF to the Development Control Archaeologist along with the evaluation report. The appointed archaeological contractor should also provide the Development Control Archaeologist with a written statement on how the project is to be published. *Where no further publication is envisaged then the short report will be published in an annual round-up on Developer Funded Archaeology in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.*

## **9.0 Archive Deposition**

9.1 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the full and final archive to be deposited in Derby Museum and Art Gallery in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. Your contact will be:

Jonathan Wallis,  
Principal Curator (Collections)  
Derby Museums and Art Gallery  
Tel: 01332 716657

9.2 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).



9.3 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, must be included as part of the final report.

### **10.0 Publication**

10.1 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, should be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication (see 8.5). The results of the work should be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. A sheet of instructions for contributors is attached.