



# **Doncaster Road, Oldcotes, Nottinghamshire – Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Paul Harris**

*Report prepared by:*  
ECUS Ltd.  
Brook Holt  
3 Blackburn Road  
Sheffield  
S61 2DW  
0114 266 9292

**September 2015**

## ECUS Ltd

Report to: **Paul Harris**

Report Title: Doncaster Road, Oldcotes, Nottinghamshire – Archaeological  
Watching Brief

Revision: **V1**  
Issue Date: **11.09.15**  
Report Ref: **6435**

Originated By:



**James Thomson**  
**Heritage Consultant**

Date: 07.09.2015

Reviewed By:



**Paul White**  
**Heritage Technical Director**

Date: 09.09.2015

Approved By:



**Paul White**  
**Heritage Technical Director**

Date: 09.09.2015

*Prepared by:*  
ECUS Ltd.  
Brook Holt  
3 Blackburn Road  
Sheffield  
S61 2DW  
0114 2669292

The report and the site assessments carried out by ECUS on behalf of the client in accordance with the agreed terms of contract and/or written agreement form the agreed Services. The Services were performed by ECUS with the skill and care ordinarily exercised by a reasonable Environmental Consultant at the time the Services were performed. Further, and in particular, the Services were performed by ECUS taking into account the limits of the scope of works required by the client, the time scale involved and the resources, including financial and manpower resources, agreed between ECUS and the client.

Other than that expressly contained in the paragraph above, ECUS provides no other representation or warranty whether express or implied, in relation to the services.

This report is produced exclusively for the purposes of the client. ECUS is not aware of any interest of or reliance by any party other than the client in or on the services. Unless expressly provided in writing, ECUS does not authorise, consent or condone any party other than the client relying upon the services provided. Any reliance on the services or any part of the services by any party other than the client is made wholly at that party's own and sole risk and ECUS disclaims any liability to such parties.

This report is based on site conditions, regulatory or other legal provisions, technology or economic conditions at the time of the Service provision. These conditions can change with time and reliance on the findings of the Services under changing conditions should be reviewed.

ECUS accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of third party data used in this report.

## Executive Summary

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Ecus Ltd on behalf of Paul Harris (hereafter 'the Client') during the topsoil strip of a site off of Doncaster Road, Oldcotes Nottinghamshire (hereafter the Site), located at NGR 458702 388623. The watching brief was undertaken on 26/08/2015.*

*The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to address a condition attached to a planning consent for the Site (Planning Ref: 15/00209/FUL).*

*The archaeological watching brief recorded no features of archaeological significance. The only features of archaeological origin comprised three features which are interpreted as having derived from the removal of trees forming part of a former tree plantation associated with the twentieth century Silverdene House.*

*No evidence was identified for a trackway or mound recorded within the site by the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (ref. L6117). It is likely that any such features must have been destroyed during a previous phase of ground works from an earlier aborted planning application for the site which had evidently reduced ground levels within the site. Even so, the absence of any evidence for ditches or metalling delineating the track or a pit from which the material for the mound may have been won suggests that the track had likely been temporary and the mound comprised of imported material. In consideration of the surrounding landuse it is possible that the mound may have been spoil associated with the construction of Silverdene House or the quarry/ limekilns to the south.*

## Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	6
1.1	PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	6
1.2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION .....	6
	<i>Designations and Constraints</i> .....	6
1.3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	6
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	8
2.1	BASELINE .....	8
2.2	SUMMARY .....	9
4.	METHODOLOGY	10
4.1	INTRODUCTION .....	10
4.2	WATCHING BRIEF .....	10
	<i>Photography</i> .....	10
	<i>Drawings</i> .....	10
	<i>Finds</i> .....	10
5.	RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	11
5.1	INTRODUCTION .....	11
5.2	RESULTS.....	11
	<i>Site Stratigraphy</i> .....	11
	<i>Phase 1 (20<sup>th</sup> century)</i> .....	13
	<i>Phase 2 (21<sup>st</sup> century)</i> .....	13
5.3	FINDS AND SAMPLES.....	14
	<i>Finds</i> .....	14
	<i>Samples</i> .....	14
6.	CONCLUSIONS	15
6.1	SUMMARY OF FINDING .....	15
7.	ARCHIVE	15
7.1	DEPOSITION .....	15
7.2	OASIS.....	15
8.	REFERENCES	16
8.1	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	16
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXTS	17
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	18
	ILLUSTRATIONS	20

**Plates**

Plate 1:	Site prior to excavation, looking west. ....	7
Plate 2:	1885 Ordnance Survey map (1:10,560 sheet V.SE) with approximate site location outlined in red. ....	8
Plate 3:	Site post-excavation, looking west .....	11
Plate 4:	Example of geotechnical trial pit showing depth of supsoil above bedrock.....	12
Plate 5:	Pit [1002], looking south.....	12
Plate 6:	Linear drain cut [1004], looking north.....	13

**Figures**

Figure 1:	Site Location
Figure 2:	Trench Plan

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Ecus Ltd on behalf of Paul Harris (hereafter 'the Client') during the topsoil strip of a site off of Doncaster Road, Oldcotes Nottinghamshire (hereafter the Site), located at NGR 458702 388623 (**Figure 1**). The watching brief was undertaken on 26/08/2015.

1.1.2 The watching brief was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (**Appendix 1**), and was requested to address a planning condition placed on the scheme comprising:

*15/00209/FUL : Erect two storey detached dwelling at land adjacent Silverdene, Doncaster Road, Oldcotes.*

6. *Development shall not commence within the application site until details of a scheme for an archaeological watching brief have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the scheme shall be implemented in full accordance with the approved details:*

*Reason: To ensure that any features of archaeological interest are protected or recorded.*

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The development is to be undertaken within land on the west side of Doncaster Road in Oldcotes (**Plate 1**), Nottinghamshire situated to the south of the house known as Silverdene and north of the housing along Weirside.

1.2.2 The site is situated in an area of Limestone of the Brotherton Formation (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer 2015).

#### ***Designations and Constraints***

1.2.3 The site is situated within Oldcotes Conservation Area. There are no other designated heritage assets within the Site.

### 1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The principal aim of the archaeological recording was to mitigate the impact of the constructions works through the identification, recording and assessment of heritage assets; thus achieving 'preservation by record'.

1.3.2 The general aims of the project were:

- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works; and

- to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the site work.

1.3.3 The site works and reporting were undertaken in line with national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014).



**Plate 1:** Site prior to excavation, looking west.

## 2. Archaeological and Historical Background

### 2.1 Baseline

- 2.1.1 The earliest evidence for activity within the vicinity of the Site comprises finds relating to Roman-British activity, including the remains of a villa, located on the eastern side of the village. Whilst no evidence has been found for remains closer to the Site, the potential for further activity within the area cannot be completely discounted.
- 2.1.2 Oldcotes in its present form principally derives from the medieval period, its historic core situated along Main Street, leading up to the area of Manor Farm at the eastern end of the village (Bassetlaw 2010). Hermeston Hall to the south of the village is believed to possibly lie on the site of a formerly larger medieval settlement documented in 1166. Further earthworks in the eastern area of Oldcotes include the remains of ridge and furrow illustrative of the extent to which the agricultural landscape extended into the heart of the settlement.
- 2.1.3 The settlement continued to grow during the post-medieval period, its centre evidently gradually shifting northwest by following the creation of the Balby to Worksop turnpike road north-south through the settlement in 1765 (the A60), and the Barnby Moor to Rotherham turnpike in 1826 (the A634). Goldthorpe Mill, a water powered mill on the Oldcotes Dyke to the south of the Site, was likely constructed during this post-medieval period. Further industry within the village followed in the nineteenth century, comprising the founding of the now ruinous Old Cotes Brewery, and an area of quarrying in the area now occupied by Weir Street to the south of the Site (**Plate 2**). The quarry, illustrated on historic Ordnance Survey (OS), would have been for the extraction of limestone and included two limekilns. A track is shown running through the quarry, possibly entering the Site.



**Plate 2:** 1885 Ordnance Survey map (1:10,560 sheet V.SE) with approximate site location outlined in red.



- 2.1.4 The Site appears to have been enclosed between the production of the 1928 and 1948 OS maps, associated with the construction of Silverdene House. The Site had at this time reputedly formed part of tree plantation associated with Silverdene (local resident *pers. comm.*). By the production of the 1961 OS map the quarry had been decommissioned and a 'mill' is illustrated as having been constructed within it.
- 2.1.5 A survey of village earthworks within Nottinghamshire undertaken in 1994, identified a number of earthworks within Oldcotes of unknown date (**HA 9-12**), including earthworks within the Site (**HA 9**). The features within the Site were identified as comprising a large mound beside an east-west track. Examination of satellite imagery for the Site indicates that in 2002 the mound was likely still extant, surrounded by a copse of trees. Between 2010 and 2012 the Site was cleared and apparently levelled with no earthworks then visible.

## **2.2 Summary**

- 2.2.1 The principal archaeological potential is assessed to be related to remains associated with the former mound recorded within the Site. These remains could be of medieval origin, but are considered more likely to be associated with the post-medieval to nineteenth century quarry to the south of the Site or the construction of Silverdene House to the north in the mid-twentieth century. In addition there is considered to be a low potential for remains relating to Romano-British activity to be present within the Site.
- 2.2.2 The Site does not appear to have been subject to any substantial disturbance in recent history, although a degree of levelling may have taken place between 2010 and 2012 which may have truncated any potential archaeological remains.

## **4. Methodology**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Ecus Ltd (2015), on behalf of Paul Harris and submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

### **4.2 Watching Brief**

- 4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained during the topsoil strip of a 34 m by 29 m area, comprising the eastern end of the Site.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil was stripped by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and conducted under the constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.2.3 Observed deposits and features were recorded using a *pro forma* recording system. The written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records.

#### ***Photography***

- 4.2.4 The photographic survey was undertaken using digital photography using a 16 megapixel camera. Photographic scales were used and the subject, location and direction of the images were recorded on photographic registers.

#### ***Drawings***

- 4.2.5 Excavated features appear on at least one detailed plan at 1:20 scale and one section at 1:10 and co-ordinated on to an overall site plan at 1:200 scale. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

#### ***Finds***

- 4.2.6 A moderate quantity of modern ceramics and glass was noted within the topsoil. Finds were treated in accordance with relevant guidance (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992, English Heritage 2005 and ClfA 2008c) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Ecus 2014).

## 5. Results of Archaeological Watching Brief

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The removal of topsoil and levelling of area measuring 34 m by 29 m was monitored (**Plate 3**). The topsoil was reduced in level spits with a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Features discussed are illustrated on the site plan (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.2 The excavation of three subsequent trial pits was also monitored. These were excavated to a depth of c.0.7 m below ground level revealing limestone bedrock.



**Plate 3:** Site post-excavation, looking west

### 5.2 Results

#### *Site Stratigraphy*

- 5.2.1 The Site was observed to be underlain by limestone bedrock (1003) present at around 0.7 m below ground level (**Plate 4**).
- 5.2.2 Overlying the bedrock was sandy clay subsoil (1001) of red hue with moderate inclusions of limestone and occasional inclusions of charcoal and pebbles.
- 5.2.3 Topsoil (1000) was present at varying depths across the site, although had evidently been significantly truncated at an earlier date with ground levels within the Site observed to be around 0.3 m lower than land to the north and east of the site boundary.



**Plate 4:** Example of geotechnical trial pit showing depth of supsoil above bedrock



**Plate 5:** Pit [1002], looking south



**Plate 6:** Linear drain cut [1004], looking north

### ***Phase 1 (20<sup>th</sup> century)***

- 5.2.4 This phase corresponds to the removal of vegetation within the Site, possibly comprising a tree plantation associated with Silverdene House.
- 5.2.5 The earliest phase of activity within the Site was considered to be represented by three evenly spaced features within the subsoil parallel with the northern boundary of the Site. The two easternmost features comprised discoloured patches with no clear edge or cut suggestive of having been caused by previous root action.
- 5.2.6 The westernmost of the three features had a clear sub-circular cut [1002] of 0.7m diameter. This was half-sectioned revealing the cut was 0.25 m in depth with sloping sides and an uneven flat base (**Plate 5**). The feature was filled with a medium brown silty clay loam (1006), likely being a continuation of the topsoil.
- 5.2.7 Two manholes comprising brick and concrete inspection chambers with cast iron covers were situated on the northern and southern edge of the site. Between these features was a narrow straight cut [1004] filled with a mixed deposit of limestone and sandy clay (1005) (**Plate 6**). This feature was not excavated as it evidently comprised a modern drain linking the two manholes.

### ***Phase 2 (21<sup>st</sup> century)***

- 5.2.8 Phase 2 represents previous groundworks at the site associated with a previous aborted development.
- 5.2.9 The ground level throughout the Site appears to have been truncated by at least 0.3 m. This resulted in the removal of a significant proportion of the

topsoil, and possibly the truncation of the subsoil in places.

### **5.3 Finds and Samples**

#### ***Finds***

- 5.3.1 A general spread of early nineteenth to twentieth century material was noted within the topsoil throughout the monitored area, but was not retained. This included sherds of blue transfer printed white porcellaneous flatware, salt-glaze stoneware pots and drains, whiteware tablewares, green and brown glass bottles and wire reinforced security glass. The presence of this material is suggestive of the spreading of nightsoil and/or domestic waste on the Site during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.
- 5.3.2 The fill of sub-circular cut feature [1004] contained two sherds of a thick bodied salt glazed earthenware vessel or drain and the right humerus of a small mammal, possibly a cat. The date and character of the finds is consistent with fill (1006) having derived from topsoil (1000).

#### **Recommendations**

- 5.3.3 The assemblage from [1004] is considered to be of limited evidential value due to the low intrinsic evidential interest of the material. Their further analysis would not be of benefit to increasing our understanding of activities on the Site, and would not provide more accurate dating for the creation of the fill then has already been established.
- 5.3.4 In line with the guidelines on dispersal and retention published by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993), it recommended that the assemblage is discarded.

#### ***Samples***

- 5.3.5 No secure industrial or environmental deposits were encountered for sampling.

## 6. Conclusions

### 6.1 Summary of Finding

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief conducted at land between Silverdene House and Weirside off of Doncaster Road, Oldcotes recorded no features of archaeological significance.
- 6.1.2 Three features were identified which are interpreted as having derived from the removal of trees forming part of a former plantation associated with the twentieth century Silverdene House.
- 6.1.3 No evidence was identified for a trackway or mound previously recorded within the Site by the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (ref. L6117). It is likely that any such features must have been destroyed during a previous phase of ground works from an earlier aborted planning application for the Site which had evidently reduced ground levels. Even so, the absence of any evidence for ditches or metalling delineating the track or a pit from which the material for the mound may have been won suggests that the track had likely been temporary and the mound comprised of imported material. In consideration of the surrounding landuse it is possible that the mound may have been spoil associated with the construction of Silverdene House or the quarry/limekilns to the south.

## 7. Archive

### 7.1 Deposition

- 7.1.1 The archive will be prepared for deposition with Bassetlaw Museum in line with current professional guidelines (SMA 1995, ClfA 2009, Brown 2011 and ADS 2013) under an accession number to be allocated by the museum on receipt of archive.

### 7.2 OASIS

- 7.2.1 An online form has been submitted with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) database under the ID: **ecusltd1-222463**.

## 8. References

### 8.1 Bibliography

- CIfA, 2008 *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading.
- CIfA, 2012 *Code of Conduct*, Revised edition, November 2012. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading
- CIfA, 2014 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading
- Ecus Ltd 2015. *Doncaster Road, Oldcotes, Nottinghamshire - Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- Historic England 2002 *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*.
- Historic England 2004. *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- Historic England 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. York: Historic England.
- Historic England 2008. *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*
- Museum and Galleries Commission 1992. *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*.
- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC) 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*.
- Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. (eds) 1998 *First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.



## Appendix 1: Contexts

Context	Type	Description	Depth range (m)
1000	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.00-0.50
1001	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay of red hue, with moderate inclusions of limestone <8cm, occasional charcoal fragments, and occasional pebbles <10cm.	0.50-0.70
1002	Cut	Shallow sloping sided sub-circular pit with uneven flat base. Cuts (1001).	0.50-0.75
1003	Bedrock	Limestone	0.70+
1004	Cut	Straight linear 40cm wide cut into (1001) and (1003) between modern manholes.	0.70-limit
1005	Fill	Limestone gravel in sandy clay matrix. Fill of [1004].	0.70-limit
1006	Fill	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of [1002].	0.50-0.75

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: ecusltd1-222463**

### Project details

Project name	Doncaster Road, Oldcotes - Archaeological Watchign Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at land between Silverdene House and Weirside off of Doncaster Road Oldcotes recorded no features of archaeological significance. Three features were identified which are interpreted as having derived from the removal of trees forming part of a former orchard associated with the twentieth century Silverdene House. No evidence was identified for a trackway or mound recorded within the site by the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record. It is likely that any such features must have been destroyed during a previous phase of ground works from an earlier aborted planning application for the site which had evidently reduced ground levels within the site. Even so, the absence of any evidence for ditches or metalling delineating the track or a pit from which the material for the mound may have been won suggests that the tack had likely been temporary and the mound comprised of imported material. In consideration of the surrounding landuse it is possible that the mound may have been spoil associated with the construction of Silverdene House or the quarry/limekilns to the south.
Project dates	Start: 26-08-2015 End: 26-08-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	6385 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BASSETLAW STYRRUP WITH OLDCOTES Doncaster Road, Oldcotes
Study area	0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 58702 88623 53.39091368751 -1.117203204953 53 23 27 N 001 07 01 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	ECUS ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	ECUS Ltd
Project director/manager	Adrian Grant
Project supervisor	James Thomson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

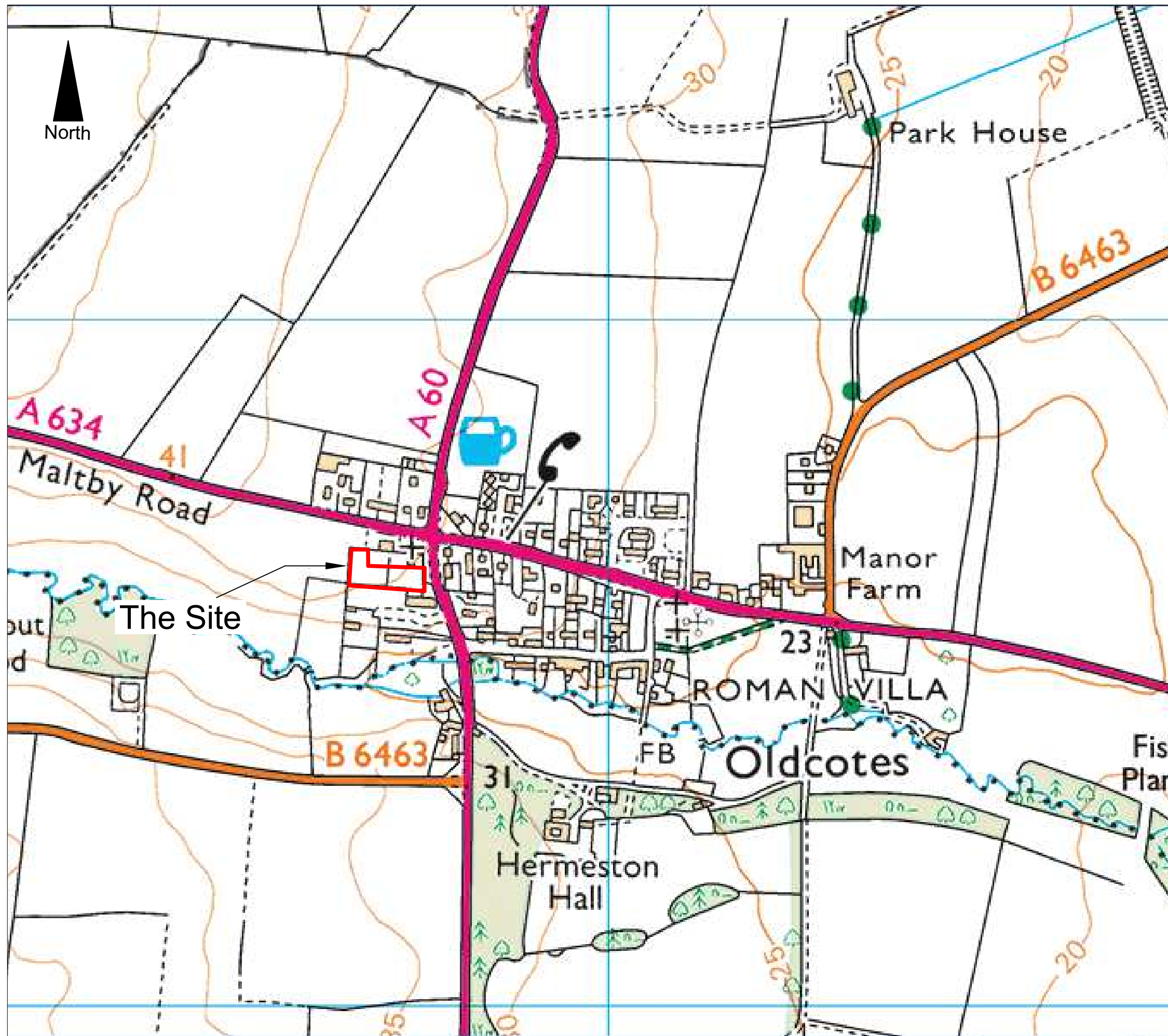
#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Bassetlaw Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Bassetlaw Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section"

#### **Project bibliography**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Doncaster Road, Oldcotes, Nottinghamshire - Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thomson, J.
Other bibliographic details	6385
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Ecus
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 spiral bound

## Illustrations



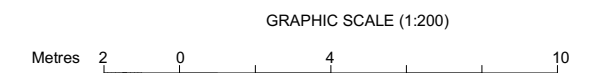
Archaeological Watching Brief

Land adjacent to Silverderne, Oldcotes, Worksop

Job No. 6385

Site Location Plan

Brook Holt ■ Blackburn Road ■ Sheffield ■ S61 2DW  
 ■tel: 0114 266 9292 ■ www.ecusltd.co.uk



Archaeological Watching Brief

Land adjacent to Silverdene, Oldcotes,  
Worksop

Job No. 6385

Trench Plan

Brook Holt ■ Blackburn Road ■ Sheffield ■ S61 2DW  
■ tel: 0114 266 9292 ■ www.ecusltd.co.uk