

Humber Lane, East Stoke, Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Woodhead Homes

August 2022


Ecus Ltd

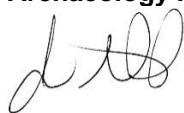
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Executive Summary

Ecus Ltd was commissioned by Woodhead Homes to conduct an Archaeological Evaluation in advance of a residential development on land north at Humber Lane, East Stoke.

A scoping report by Locus Consulting determined that the Site is located wholly within the East Stoke Conservation Area and the Battle of Stoke Field Registered Battlefield, adjacent to the medieval remains of the village of East Stoke Scheduled Monument, and in proximity to the Grade II Listed Building Hall Farm House. The Site was considered to have a high potential to contain remains of archaeological interest and, following consultation with the archaeological planning advisor for Newark and Sherwood District Council, a programme of archaeological trenching was agreed in order to inform a Heritage Impact Assessment. The trenching comprised three 30 m by 1.8 m trenches, a 5% sample of the Site.

All features uncovered during the excavation were determined to be of modern origin, relating to the construction and use of the school. No archaeological remains were identified during the excavation, and it is likely that any archaeological features were removed during construction of the school buildings and services.

The archive is currently stored at Ecus's Sheffield office under project number 19133, and will be deposited with the relevant museum in due course. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-508857) has been uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Ecus Ltd was commissioned by Woodhead Homes to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation in advance of a residential development on land north at Humber Lane, East Stoke, Nottinghamshire (hereafter 'the Site'; planning application ref.: PREAPP/00260/20). The Site is centred at National Grid Reference 475142, 349705 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 A Scoping Report conducted by Locus Consulting (Locus Consulting 2020) determined that the Site is located wholly within the East Stoke Conservation Area and the Battle of Stoke Field Registered Battlefield, adjacent to the medieval remains of the village of East Stoke Scheduled Monument, and in proximity to the Grade II Listed Building Hall Farm House.
- 1.1.3 The Site was considered to have a high potential to contain remains of archaeological interest, and following consultation with the archaeological planning advisor for Newark and Sherwood District Council a programme of archaeological trenching was agreed in order to inform a Heritage Impact Assessment. The trenching comprised three 30 m by 1.8 m trenches, a 5% sample of the Site.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Ecus 2022) was agreed with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority prior to commencement of works. This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the south western edge of the village of East Stoke, c. 5.5 km south west of Newark. The Site was previously occupied by a small school, now demolished and has become overgrown. The Site is bounded by Humber Lane to the north west by residential development to the north east and pastoral fields to the south and east.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies within a level parcel of land c. 0.34 ha in area at c. 25 m aOD. The bedrock geology of the Site consists of Edwalton Member Mudstone, no superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Society 2022).

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Craig Parkinson and Harry Mixer, and project managed by Tom Linington. The report was written by Harry Mixer, Craig Parkinson and Poppy Forshaw-Perring, and illustrations were produced by Damien Ronan.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is based upon a scoping report undertaken by Locus Consulting in September 2020 (Locus Consulting 2020).

2.2 Baseline

2.2.1 There is evidence for prehistoric activity throughout the area. This includes Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows, which are located south of the Site, another Bronze Age round barrow which is present to the north of the Site, and a further barrow located to the north west. The majority of records relate to stray finds of Palaeolithic to Bronze Age flint, one of which, a flint barbed and tanged arrowhead dating to the Bronze Age period, was recovered within the Site in the mid twentieth century.

2.2.2 A precursor to a nearby Roman settlement was likely established by the Iron Age to the north east of the Site. Romano-British evidence has also been discovered in the form of linear boundary ditches, potential stock enclosures, as well as finds including pottery, fired clay and animal bones. A major Roman road, The Fosse Way, also passes close to the Site.

2.2.3 Extensive medieval earthworks are recorded around East Stoke and represent the expansion and contraction of the village. The Site is located in a Registered Battlefield for the Battle of Stoke Field, which took place in 1487. During the widening of the modern A46 a burial pit was discovered south east of the Site, within which the entangled remains of at least 11 articulated inhumation burials were found.

2.2.4 A small building, recorded as 'Kennels' and probably associated with Stoke Hall to the north east, was present in the 1920s. A school was built on the Site in the 1960s and demolished in 2017.

3. Methodology

3.1 Standards

3.1.1 The project conformed to the current national guidance as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2020a); *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020b); and *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020c).

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The specific aims of the evaluation 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 recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- to prepare a comprehensive record of, and report on, archaeological observations made during the site work; and
- to identify mitigation strategies to ensure the recording, preservation or management of archaeological remains within the Site.

3.2.2 The objectives of the project are:

- to establish whether adjacent prehistoric remains extend into the Site, and to further understand two curvilinear geophysical anomalies; and
- to provide evidence to address relevant regional research topics i.e. East Midlands Heritage, An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Knight et al. 2012).

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 All work was undertaken by experienced Ecus staff who are corporate members of the ClfA or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

3.3.2 A trenching plan was devised and agreed to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the significance of the archaeological resource is understood to a level of detail

proportionate to its importance (Figure 2).

- 3.3.3 A total of three trenches measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide were excavated across the Site. The centre end point of each trench was located on the ground using differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) technology or hand-measured to an accuracy of ± 0.1 m. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket of suitable width under continuous archaeological direction and monitoring.
- 3.3.4 Soil overburdens were removed in layers of up to 300 mm thickness to the top of the first archaeological horizon or the level of natural geology, whichever was reached first. The depth of each layer was determined by the supervising archaeologist.
- 3.3.5 Each layer was examined sufficiently to determine whether archaeological remains were present or not, thereby also determining whether machine excavation would recommence or cease.
- 3.3.6 The finished stripped surface was machined to a condition which was suitably 'clean' for archaeological recording to commence, and subsequently hand cleaned where necessary.

3.4 Excavation and Recording Methodology

- 3.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a digital pro-forma recording system in accordance with industry standards. 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.
- 3.4.2 Excavated features were planned using GPS and sections drawn at 1:10, and co-ordinated on to an overall site plan. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 3.4.3 A full photographic record was maintained, using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output will be in TIFF/JPEG format. Digital records created as part of the project comply with specific data standards (Historic England 2015).

3.5 Finds

- 3.5.1 All finds from the Site were clearly of modern date and not retained.

3.6 Environmental Sampling

- 3.6.1 All features uncovered during excavation were clearly of modern origin, and so no sampling was

considered necessary.

4. Trench Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological deposits are reproduced in Appendix 1. Context numbers presented in the text are **bolded**.
- 4.1.2 Excavations consisted of three mechanically excavated trenches across the site. The locations of these trenches are shown in Figure 2.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 contained a brown grey, silty sand topsoil (**101**), varying from 0.2 – 0.4 m deep (Plate 1). This overlay a similarly silty sand subsoil (**103**) up to 0.4 m deep, most likely redeposited during landscaping of the Site during construction of the school. The subsoil overlay modern cut **104**, which contained modern crushed sandstone aggregate **105**. This was cut into the natural boulder clay **103**.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 contained a brown grey, silty sand topsoil (**201**), varying from 0.2 - 0.4 m deep, which abutted a layer of concrete foundations for the old school building (**207**) (Plate 2). The foundations overlay the fill of a modern service trench for a concreted drain (**205** and **206**). Service trench **205** was cut through orange brown, silty sand subsoil up to 0.4 m deep, which overlay boulder clay and sand natural (**203**).

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 contained a tarmac car park surface (**301**), which overlay an aggregate bedding layer (**302**). No topsoil was present and the construction deposits lay directly on top of subsoil **303**, which in comprised an orange brown silty sand, varying between 0.2 m and 0.35 m in depth. This subsoil overlay the boulder clay and sand natural (**304**). The natural layer was cut by a modern posthole (**305**), the fill of which contained plastic (**306**). The posthole also likely cut the subsoil but the fills were not observed during machining.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 Despite being located in such an archaeologically rich environment, this evaluation uncovered no archaeological features. This may be due to there being no archaeological activity, but it is more likely that later phases of building, particularly of the school in the 1960s, truncated any features that were present previously.
- 5.1.2 On the evidence of the three trenches excavated during this evaluation, it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains will survive within the Site.

6. Archiving

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared and arrangements for the deposition of the archive on completion of the project will be made in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (ClfA 2020c).
- 6.1.2 The archive is currently held at Ecus's office in Sheffield under the project code 19133, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-508857) has been uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

7. References

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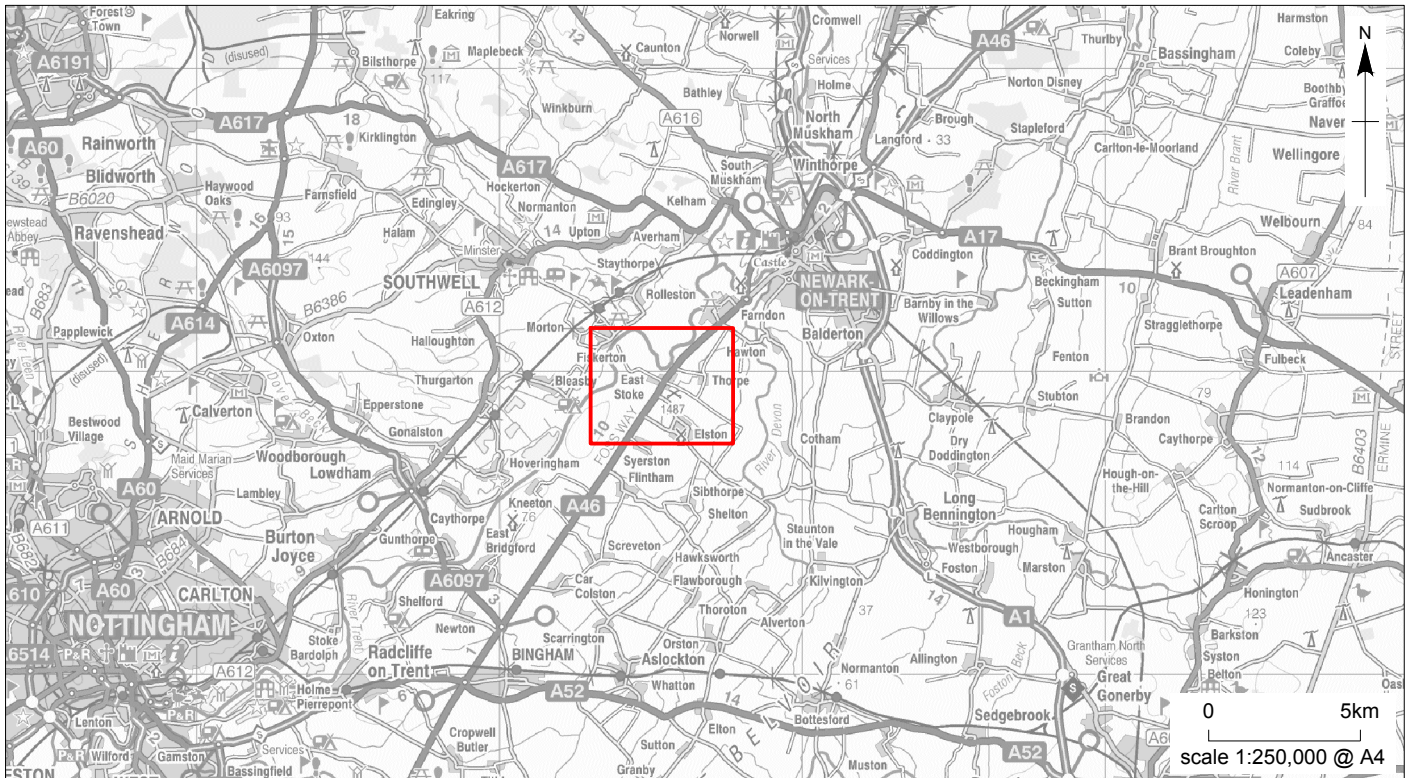
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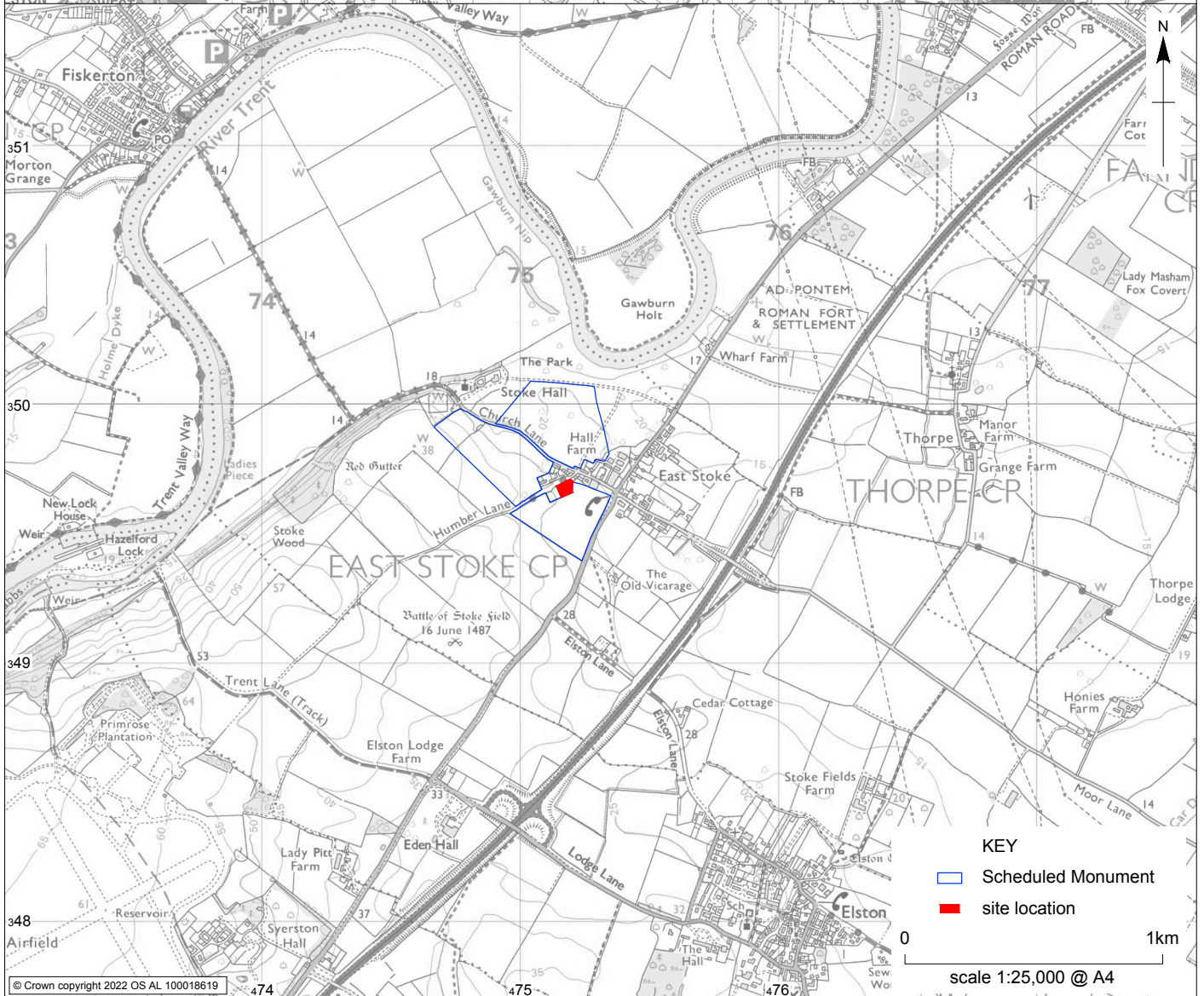
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0 5km
scale 1:250,000 @ A4

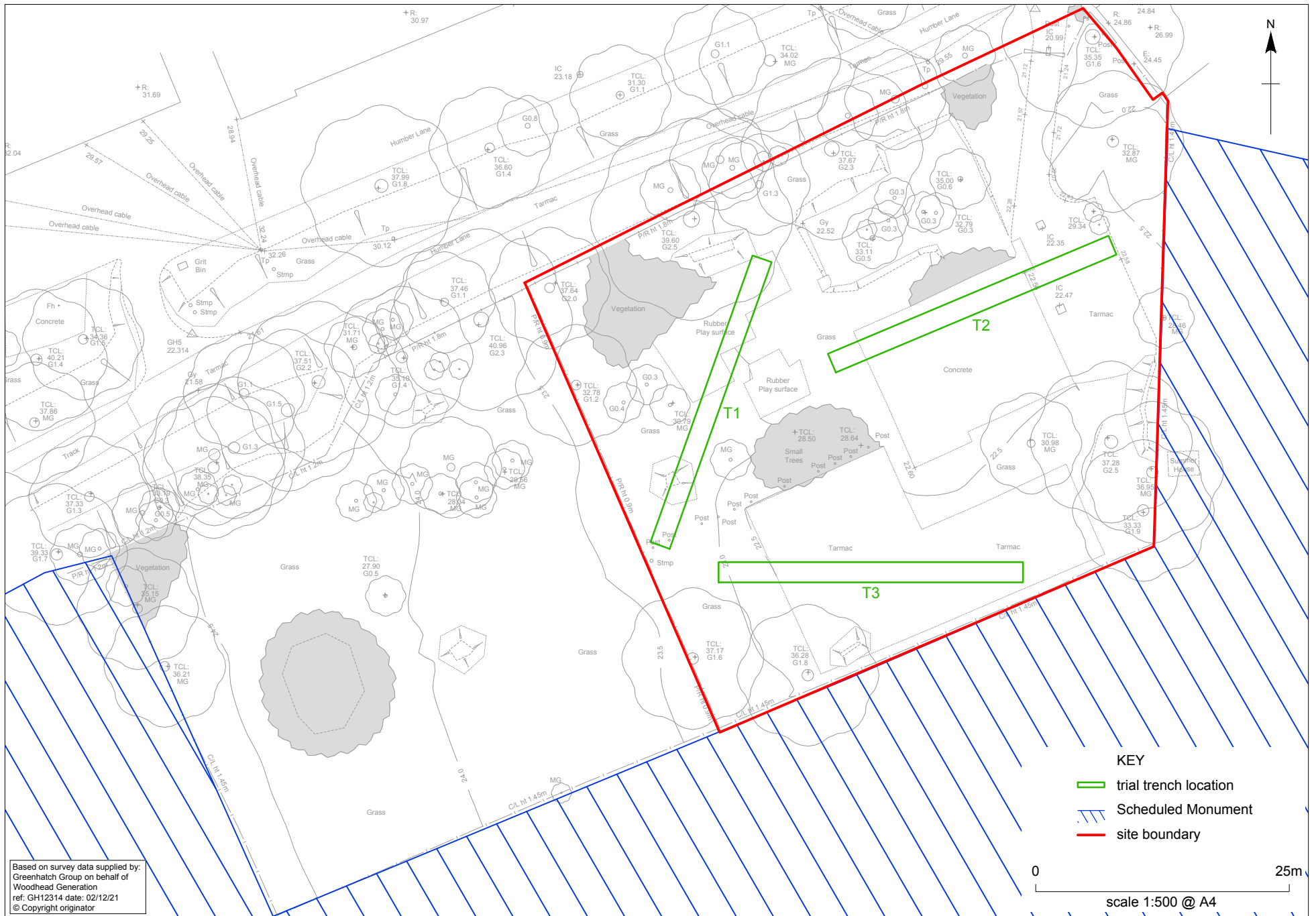


KEY
 [Blue Outline] Scheduled Monument
 [Red Square] site location
 0 1km
 scale 1:25,000 @ A4

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Humber Lane, East Stoke: site location

Figure 1



Based on survey data supplied by:
 Greenhatch Group on behalf of
 Woodhead Generation
 ref: GH12314 date: 02/12/21
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Humber Lane, East Stoke: trial trench locations overlain on topographic survey

Figure 2



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Trench 1, north facing view

Plate 1



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Trench 2, south east facing view

Plate 2



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Trench 3, west facing view

Plate 3

Humber Lane, East Stoke: plates

Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Context no.	Trench	Type	Fill of	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Provisional periods	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
101	1	Layer		Topsoil of trench 1. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	-	0.50 (avg.)
102	1	Layer		Subsoil of trench 1. Colour: mid brownish yellow. Composition: fine silty sand. Compaction: very dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent large sub-angular spheroidal sandstone, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Subsoil	-	-	-	-	0.30 (avg.)
103	1	Layer		Natural of trench 1. Colour: dark reddish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Natural	-	-	-	-	-
104	1	Cut		Cut of E-W modern cut. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: vertical, straight. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat.	Modern cut	-	-	1.8	1	0.7

105	1	Layer		Other context of trench 1. Colour: mid orangey yellow. Composition: medium sand. Compaction: dry, very loose. Inclusions: frequent large sub-angular platy sandstone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Modern construction waste fill	-	-	-	-	0.90 (avg.)
201	2	Layer		Topsoil of trench 2. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	-	0.30 (avg.)
202	2	Layer		Subsoil of trench 2. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: moist. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil, possible redeposit levelling deposit for modern construction	-	-	-	-	0.30 (avg.)

203	2	Layer		Natural of trench 2. Colour: mid reddish brown. Composition: clay. Compaction: moist, cemented. Inclusions: 1) occasional small sub-angular stones, evenly distributed 2) frequent sand. Reliability: fair.	Boulder clay and sand natural	-	-	-	-	-
205	2	Cut		Cut of N-S ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: shallow, straight. Break at base: gradual.	Cut of modern service trench	-	Modern	1.80 (exc.)	3	0.3
206	2	Fill	205	Fill of ditch. Colour: dark brownish black. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Fill of modern service trench	-	Modern	1.80 (exc.)	3	0.3

207	2	Layer		Other context of trench 2. Colour: light grey. Compaction: dry, cemented. Inclusions: inclusion. Reliability: good.	Concrete foundations for school building, tarmac road surface with aggregate bedding layer, all contemporary construction.	-	Modern	-	-	0.30 (avg.)
301	3	Layer		Other context of trench 3. Colour: strong black. Compaction: very dry, cemented. Inclusions: inclusion. Reliability: good.	Car park surface	-	Modern	-	-	0.15 (avg.)
302	3	Layer		Other context of trench 3. Colour: mid orange. Compaction: very dry, loose. Inclusions: inclusion. Reliability: good.	Aggregate bedding layer for tarmac surface	-	Modern	-	-	0.15 (avg.)
303	3	Layer		Subsoil of trench 3. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: sandy silt. Compaction: moist. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil, possibly redeposit levelling layer	-	-	-	-	0.50 (avg.)

304	3	Layer		Natural of trench 3. Colour: mid reddish brown. Composition: clay. Compaction: moist, cemented. Inclusions: 1) occasional small sub-angular stones, evenly distributed 2) frequent sand. Reliability: fair.	Natural boulder clay and sand	-	-	-	-	-
305	3	Cut		Cut of posthole. Shape in plan: square. Break at top: sharp. Sides: vertical, straight.	Cut of modern posthole	-	Modern	0.2	0.2	0.10 (exc.)
306	3	Fill	305	Fill of posthole. Colour: mid brown. Composition: pebbly silt. Compaction: moist, very loose. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Fill of modern posthole with plastic.	Plastic	Modern	0.2	0.2	0.10 (exc.)



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