

Land at Spring Lakes Water Sport Centre,
Long Eaton, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Ref: ERE/1018/0023



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Document Reference:	DOC1819-89
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Dates of Fieldwork:	March 2019
Date of Document:	March 2019

Assumptions and Limitations

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Solstice Heritage LLP would like to thank Mr and Mrs Hill for commissioning the evaluation works reported here. Thanks are also expressed to Sarah Whiteley of Derbyshire County Council for her assistance with the project. Where map data has been used in the preparation of the accompanying figures, this is derived from Ordnance Survey Opendata and is crown copyright all rights reserved unless otherwise attributed.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the results of a programme of evaluation trenching undertaken on land at Spring Lakes Water Sports Centre, Long Eaton, Derbyshire as a condition of planning permission (ref. ERE/1018/0023) for development at the site. Trenching was undertaken to characterise the potential effects of a proposed development on the potential archaeological resource within the site. One trench of 30 x 2m and three trenches of 5 x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area. All trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools.

The evaluation was unable to characterise or investigate any non-anthropogenic deposits within the proposed development area given the depth of dumped overburden present. Despite this, surrounding quarrying, and the likely extraction of material from this site, clearly illustrates that it is likely to have been underlain by fluvial sands, silts and gravels, which would be consistent with the surrounding landscape and mapped geological data for this area.

No significant archaeological deposits or features were found during the archaeological evaluation works.

The evaluation has shown that the site has seen large-scale reworking in the relatively recent past, with a significant depth of fill material, at least 2 m in depth, having been placed across its full area. This dumping of probable quarrying overburden suggests that the site is likely to have seen some level of mineral extraction in the past. Such evidence suggests that the site is highly unlikely to host significant, if any, archaeological remains. Should any archaeological remains be present at all, they are likely to be deeply buried at a minimum of 2 m below the existing ground level.

It is considered that the results of the programme of evaluation trenching are sufficient to inform any further planning decisions in respect of the site. No further archaeological works are recommended.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hill to outline the results of an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was required by Erewash Borough Council as a condition of a planning permission (ref. ERE/1018/0023) for the creation of a new water sports facility. The design of the scheme of evaluation was based upon a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Solstice Heritage (Scott 2019).

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located to the south of the town of Long Eaton and just to the north of the River Trent, at an altitude of c. 30 m aOD (centred on NGR SK 50388 32302) (Figure 1).

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Archaeological field evaluation is defined as:

“A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (ClfA 2014, 2).

The overarching aim of the evaluation was:

- To gather information about any archaeological resources within the site, to assess its merit in the context of the proposed development.

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To attempt to establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate the threat to the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation, if required.
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014a) and the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014b).
- To produce a report on the findings of the site.

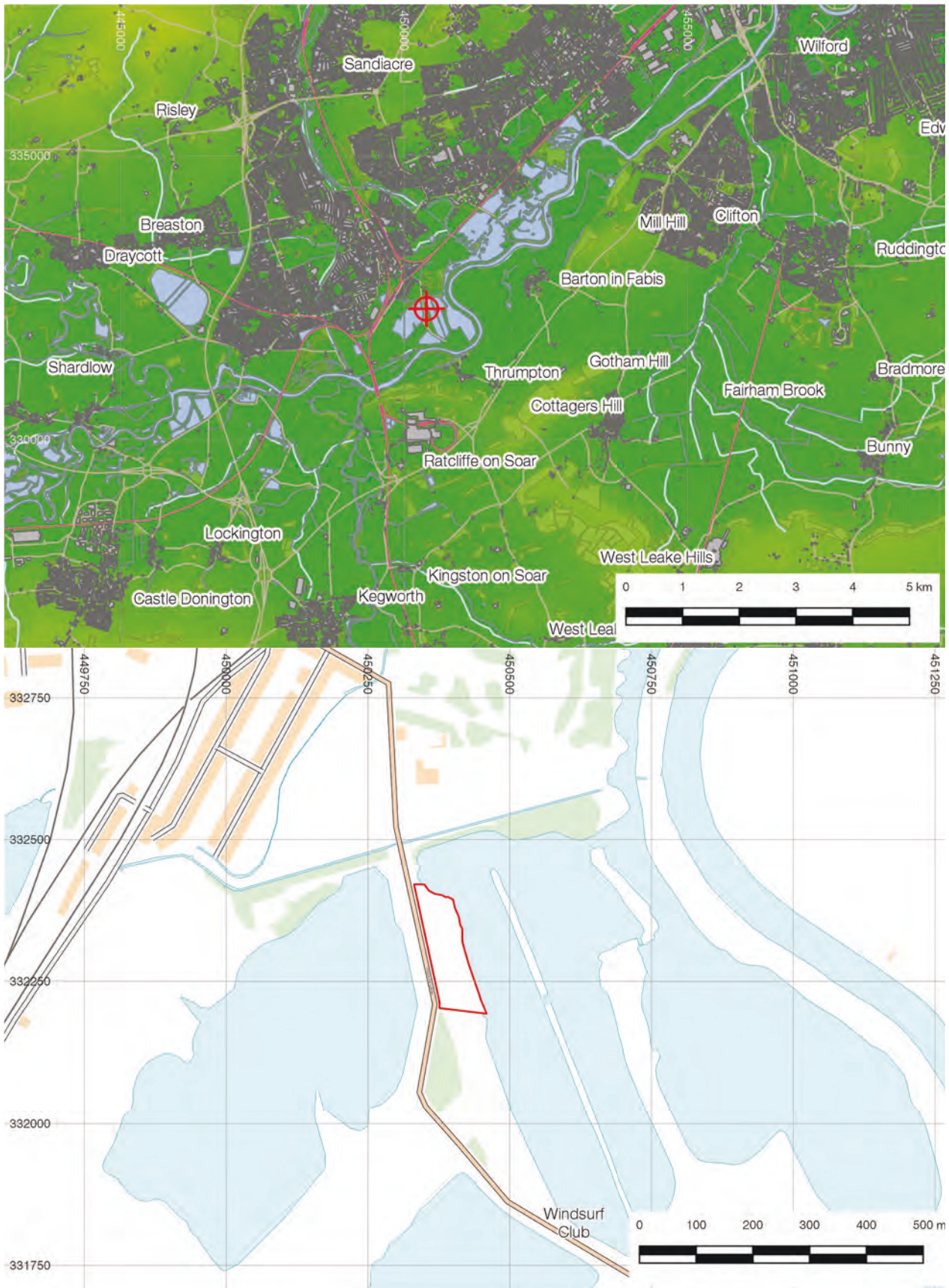


Figure 1 Site location



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development sits within the “Trent Valley Washlands” National Character Area (NCA), which comprises the river flood plain corridors of the middle reaches of the River Trent’s catchment in the heart of England. It is a distinctly narrow, linear and low-lying landscape, often clearly delineated at its edges by higher ground, and it is largely comprised of the flat flood plains and gravel terraces of the rivers (NE, 2013, 3). The underlying superficial geology of the proposed development site is mapped as Hemington Member fluvial silts and gravels, with the underlying solid geology formed of mudstone of the Edwalton Member (BGS 2019). Online mapping provided by the UK Soil Observatory (2018) characterises the soils across the area of proposed development as “freely draining floodplain soils”.

2.2 PREVIOUS WORK

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on this site, although the proposed site of the new building corresponds to an area in which a range of archaeological artefacts have been recovered, including Roman pottery and prehistoric flints (Derbyshire HER 25589 and EDR 3375). Aerial photographs of the area, which were taken prior to gravel extraction, recorded cropmarks which indicated possible early settlement here. In addition to this, the remains of a medieval boat have also been recovered from the edge of the gravel pit to the east, though it is thought that this was not *in situ*.

2.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Any potential evidence relating to Roman period or prehistoric settlement would potentially be of regional significance.

2.4 RELEVANT RESEARCH AGENDA

Given the lengthy and constant use of this landscape from at least the Mesolithic period onwards, the evaluation has the potential to address numerous themes identified as priorities for further study within the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). Given the lack of previous work on this site, it is uncertain exactly which themes might be most likely to be addressed at this stage.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Results of the evaluation are presented here by trench, with a note on general, site-wide stratigraphy.

3.2 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

All of the excavated trenches exhibited the same sequence of two deposits. Across the site a consistent topsoil was present, measuring between 0.2 m and 0.3 m in thickness, overlying a deep layer of mixed fill/overburden, with a minimum investigated depth of c. 2 m. This fill was not penetrated by the trenches and was considered likely to be much deeper. No other deposits were noted during the work.

3.3 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was aligned N-S and excavated close to the northern extent of the proposed development site (Figure 3). The trench was 30 m x 2 m and was excavated through 0.2 m of light-brown sandy silt topsoil (100). This topsoil (100) overlay a thick layer of mixed dumps of sand, gravel, clay and occasional stones (101) (Figure 4). This thick layer of dumped material (101) was excavated up to a depth of 1.8 m, after which excavation was abandoned due to the excessive depth of the trench. Existing ground level in the area of the trench was c. 27.5 m aOD, with excavation abandoned at c. 25.5 m aOD. The deposit of mixed dumped material (101) was not penetrated and remained present across the base of the excavation. No other deposits or archaeological features were present.

3.4 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was aligned E-W and excavated to the south of Trench 1 (Figure 5). The trench was 5 m x 2 m and was excavated through 0.3 m of light-greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil (200). This topsoil (200) overlay a thick layer of mixed dumps of sand, gravel, clay and occasional stones (201) (Figure 6). This thick layer of dumped material (201) was excavated up to a depth of 1.7 m, after which excavation was abandoned due to the excessive depth of the trench. Existing ground level in the area of the trench was c. 27.4 m aOD, with excavation abandoned at c. 25.4 m aOD. The deposit of mixed dumped material (201) was not penetrated and remained present across the base of the excavation. No other deposits or archaeological features were present.

3.5 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was aligned N-S and excavated to the south of Trench 2 (Figure 7). The trench was 5 m x 2 m and was excavated through 0.3 m of mid-brown sandy silt topsoil (300). This topsoil (300) overlay a thick layer of mixed dumps of sand, gravel, clay and occasional stones (301) (Figure 8). This thick layer of dumped material (301) was excavated up to a depth of 1.7 m, after which excavation was abandoned due to the excessive depth of the trench. Existing ground level in the area of the trench was c. 26.8 m aOD, with excavation abandoned at c. 24.8 m aOD. The deposit of mixed dumped material (301) was not penetrated and remained present across the base of the excavation. No other deposits or archaeological features were present.

3.6 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 was aligned E-W and excavated to the south of Trench 3 (Figure 9). The trench was 5 m x 2 m and was excavated through 0.2 m of mid-grey-brown sandy silt topsoil (400). This topsoil (400) overlay a thick layer of mixed dumps of sand, gravel, clay and occasional stones (401) (Figure 10). This thick layer of dumped material (401) was excavated up to a depth of 1.8 m, after which excavation was abandoned due to the excessive depth of the trench. Existing ground level in the area of the trench was c. 27.4 m aOD, with excavation abandoned at c. 25.35 m aOD. The deposit of mixed dumped material (401) was not penetrated and remained present across the base of the excavation. No other deposits or archaeological features were present.



Figure 3 Trench 1, facing south. Scale 2x2 m



Figure 4 Trench 1, west-facing section. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 5 Trench 2, facing east. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 6 Trench 2, north-facing section. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 7 Trench 3, facing north. Scale 1x2 m

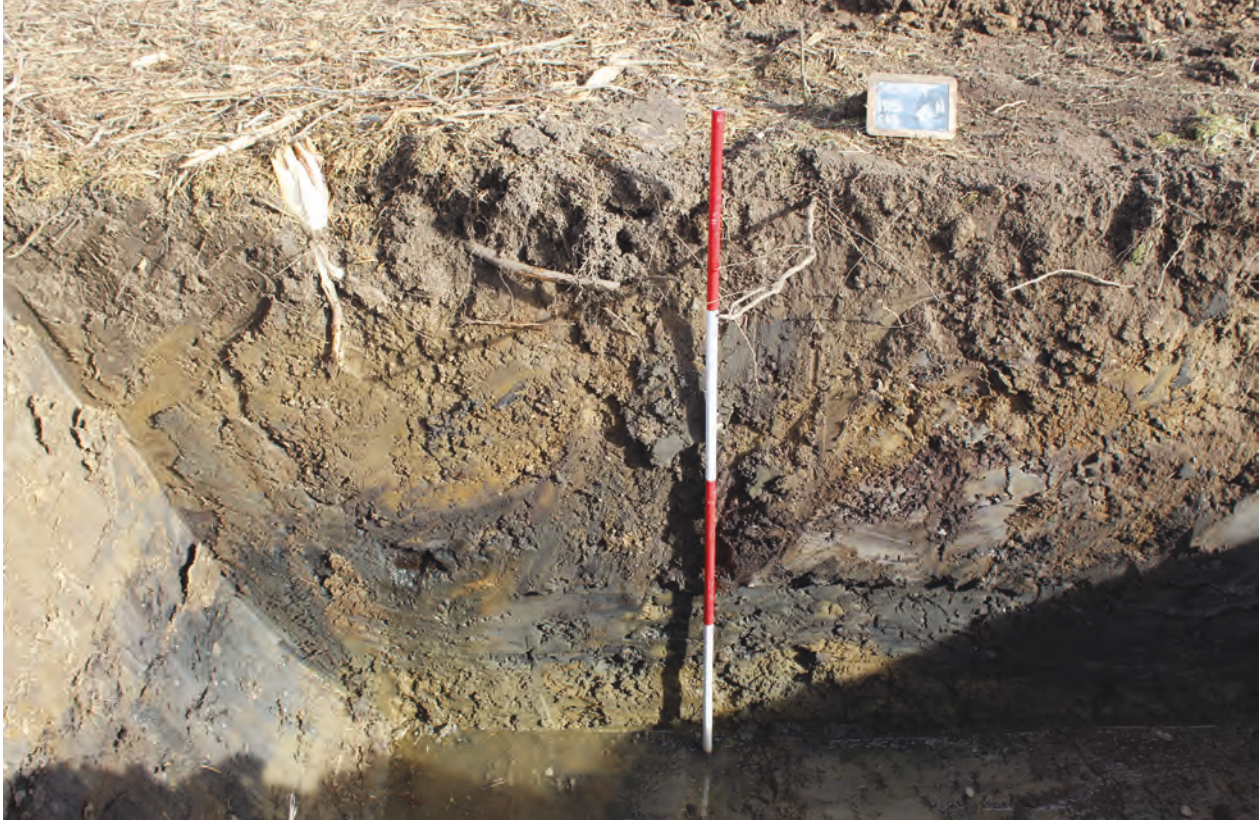


Figure 8 Trench 3, west-facing section. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 9 Trench 4, facing west. Scale 1x2 m



Figure 10 Trench 4, north-facing section. Scale 1x2 m

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The evaluation was unable to characterise or investigate any non-anthropogenic deposits within the proposed development area given the depth of dumped overburden present. Despite this, surrounding quarrying, and the likely extraction of material from this site, clearly illustrates that it is likely to have been underlain by fluvial sands, silts and gravels, which would be consistent with the surrounding landscape and mapped geological data for this area.

4.2 MODERN

The evaluation has shown that the site has seen large-scale reworking in the relatively recent past, with a significant depth of fill material, at least 2 m in depth, having been placed across its entire area. This dumping of probable quarrying overburden from surrounding sand and gravel extraction, suggests that the site itself is likely to have seen some level of mineral extraction in the past. Such evidence suggests that the site is highly unlikely to host significant, if any, archaeological remains. Should any archaeological remains be present at all, they are likely to be deeply buried at a minimum of 2 m below the existing ground level. No significant archaeological deposits or features were found during the archaeological evaluation works.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONFIDENCE, CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

All trenches were excavated in their planned locations, however, following the excavation of Trench 1, which initially illustrated the large scale of recent ground disturbance and reworking on the site, the remaining trenches were shortened to 5 m in length, with agreement from the local authority archaeologist, in order to avoid unnecessary disturbance for no archaeological gain. These shortened trenches demonstrated that the deep layer of imported overburden noted in Trench 4 was consistently present across the full site area. It is not considered that the altering of the initially designed trenching strategy has affected the accuracy of the results of the evaluation, or diminished its value, particularly given the clear evidence of large-scale, recent reworking.

5.2 RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Given the degree of deep modern disturbance and/or mineral extraction across the site, and the lack of archaeological features or deposits detected during this evaluation work, the site is not considered to have the potential to contribute to any of the research themes identified within the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012).

5.3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The results of the evaluation indicate that there will be no direct effect from the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is considered that the results of the programme of evaluation trenching are sufficient to inform a planning decision in respect of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site and no further archaeological work is recommended.

5.5 PROJECT ARCHIVE

The physical and digital archive for this project is currently held by Solstice Heritage LLP pending a decision on the requirement for any future work on the site. Given the lack of archaeological interest identified at the site, it is considered that this report is sufficient to serve as the archive for this project.

6. SOURCES

6.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Natural England. 2013. *NCA Profile: 69 Trent Valley Washlands*. Sheffield, Natural England.

Scott, C. 2019. *Spring Lakes Water Sports Centre, Long Eaton: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Solstice Heritage LLP Report No. 1819-82.

6.2 WEBSITES

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Description	Probable Date
100	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern
101	Deposit	Mixed Quarrying Overburden	Modern
200	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern
201	Deposit	Mixed Quarrying Overburden	Modern
300	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern
301	Deposit	Mixed Quarrying Overburden	Modern
400	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern
401	Deposit	Mixed Quarrying Overburden	Modern

Table 1 Context Register

APPENDIX 2 - POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within development and the wider planning process is set out in Table 1 below.

Title	Key Points
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002)	Scheduled Monuments, as defined under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), are sites which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. Where scheduled sites are affected by development proposals there is a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Any works, other than activities receiving class consent under The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1981, as amended by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1984, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering-up a Scheduled Monument require consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Buildings of national, regional or local historical and architectural importance are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Buildings designated as 'Listed' are afforded protection from physical alteration or effects on their historical setting.
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) include criteria by which hedgerows can be regarded as historically important (Schedule 1 Part III).

Table 2 Legislation relating to cultural heritage in planning

POLICY

NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2019) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Paragraph	Key Points
8	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of one of the key objectives contributing to sustainable development.
189	During the determination of applications "local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". This information should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and only enough to "understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance".
190	Paragraph 190 identifies that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise.
193	'Great weight' should be given the conservation of a designated heritage asset irrespective of the level of 'harm' of a proposed development. However, the more important the asset, the greater the weight given.

Paragraph	Key Points
194	'Harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage assets...should require clear and convincing justification'. In terms of the levels of designated heritage assets, substantial harm to Grade II listed buildings and parks and gardens should be exceptional, and to all other (the highest significance of) designated assets wholly exceptional.
195	Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset will be refused unless it is outweighed by substantial public benefits.
196	Where there is 'less than substantial harm' to a designated heritage asset, the decision will weigh this harm against the public benefit of the proposal 'including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.
197	For decisions affecting non-designated heritage assets 'a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset'.

Table 3 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage (archaeology)

LOCAL

Under planning law, the determination of an application must be made, in the first instance, with reference to the policies of the local development plan. For the proposed development, this comprises the *Erewash Core Strategy*, adopted in 2014 (Erewash Borough Council 2014), which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Policy	Key Points
11	<p>'1. Proposals and initiatives will be supported where the significance of heritage assets and their settings would be sustained or enhanced. Planning decisions will take into account the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring.</p> <p>2. Local Development Documents will take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, as well as the contribution made by the historic environment to an area's sense of place.</p> <p>3. A variety of strategic approaches will be used to assist in the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and to ensure that evidence about the historic environment and heritage assets is publicly documented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) considering investment in and enhancement of historic places including the public realm and the setting of heritage assets; b) publishing proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas in the form of management plans; c) considering the use of Article 4 directions to control the impact of permitted development on the historic environment; d) identifying heritage assets worthy of designation locally, including the identification of potential conservation areas; e) appraising the character of existing conservation areas; f) requiring developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part); and g) considering the need for the preparation of further local evidence. <p>4. The impact upon the historic environment of planning policies and decisions will be monitored. Particular attention will be paid to the degree to which individual or groups of heritage assets are at risk of neglect, decay or other threats.'</p>

Table 4 Key local planning policies with reference to cultural heritage

GUIDANCE

NATIONAL

During the assessment and preparation of this document, the following guidance documents have been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by English Heritage and also provides a terminology for assessment of significance upon which much that has followed is based.
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The evaluation work has been undertaken to these standards, as subscribed to by Solstice Heritage LLP.

Table 5 National guidance documentation consulted

APPENDIX 3 - METHODOLOGY

FIELDWORK

The four trenches were laid out in the locations agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Scott 2019) and excavations were undertaken and completed between the 14th and the 15th February 2019. The work was undertaken by Chris Scott and Ben Moore of Solstice Heritage LLP. One trench of 30 x 2m and three trenches of 5 x 2m were excavated within the proposed development area. Following the excavation of Trench 1, which initially illustrated the large scale of recent ground disturbance and reworking on the site, the remaining trenches were shortened to 5 m in length, with agreement from the local authority archaeologist, in order to avoid unnecessary disturbance for no archaeological gain. All trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools. All mechanical excavation (through overburden and non-anthropogenic levelling layers) was undertaken with a back-acting, toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, these were recorded to the standards outlined in the agreed WSI and the relevant ClfA Standard and Guidance. All features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets, drawn in plan and section at a suitable scale, and photographed. In addition to any specific features or deposits, a general record of the trench stratigraphy was made on *pro forma* record sheets, a plan and section of each trench was made at a suitable scale and photography was completed. A detailed methodology was outlined in the agreed WSI, and this has been included as Appendix 4 below.

POST-FIELDWORK

The primary site archive comprises site records and digital photography on CD. This has been used to compile this report, all of which will be deposited with a local repository museum in digital and paper format as the principal record of the evaluation work. The physical archive comprises primary field records and advice will be sought on the detailed requirements for retention and deposition. An OASIS record has been completed for this work, including a digital version of this report, the reference for which is **solstice1- 345194**. Deposition of the physical archive has been delayed until a determination is made on the need for, and scope of, any further work. In this instance then a single archive will be compiled and deposited.

CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the text, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined in calendar years as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,000 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10000 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Chalcolithic/Beaker Period: (2400 – 2000 BC)
- Bronze Age: 2000 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1900
 - » Tudor: AD 1485 – 1603
 - » Stuart: AD 1603 – 1714
 - » Georgian: AD 1714 – 1837
- Industrial: 1750 – 1900
 - » Victorian: AD 1837 – 1901
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Solstice Heritage LLP commits all fieldwork and post-fieldwork assessment, analysis, reporting and dissemination to be undertaken to the standards stipulated by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The project has been managed by Chris Scott, who is a fully accredited member of CIfA (MCIfA level).

APPENDIX 4 - WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



Spring Lakes Water Sports Centre, Long Eaton

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Planning Ref: ERE/1018/0023

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Project Reference:	SOL1819-121
Document Reference:	DOC1819-82
Date of Document:	February 2019
Document Version:	2.0



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hill to confirm the scope of works of an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation is required by Erewash Borough Council as a condition of a planning permission (ref. ERE/1018/0023) for the creation of a new water sports facility.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The proposed development is centred at NGR SK 50422 32069, to the south of the town of Long Eaton and just to the north of the River Trent, at an altitude of c. 30 m aOD (Figure 1).

The archaeological works proposed within this WSI will comprise:

- Excavation by Solstice Heritage LLP of 4 no. 30 m x 2 m archaeological evaluation trenches within the proposed development area (Figure 2).

1.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in this WSI, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,500 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10500 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Bronze Age: 2400 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 43
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 43 – 410
- Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1750
- Industrial: AD 1750 – 1900
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

1.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Solstice Heritage LLP commits all fieldwork and post-fieldwork assessment, analysis, reporting and dissemination to be undertaken to the standards stipulated by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) as is outlined in Sections 3-4 below. The project will be managed by Chris Scott who is a fully accredited member of the CIfA (MCIfA level). A statement of competence for Chris Scott is attached as Appendix 2 to this document.

1.5 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this WSI has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of this WSI 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.

The inherent uncertainties of archaeological investigation mean that the working methodologies and sampling strategies may be required to change should unexpectedly extensive and/or significant remains be discovered. This has been highlighted in the relevant sections below and any such change will be agreed with the client and Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist.



1.6 COPYRIGHT

Solstice Heritage LLP will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). The Derbyshire HER will be granted licence to use the report for its purposes, which may include photocopying.

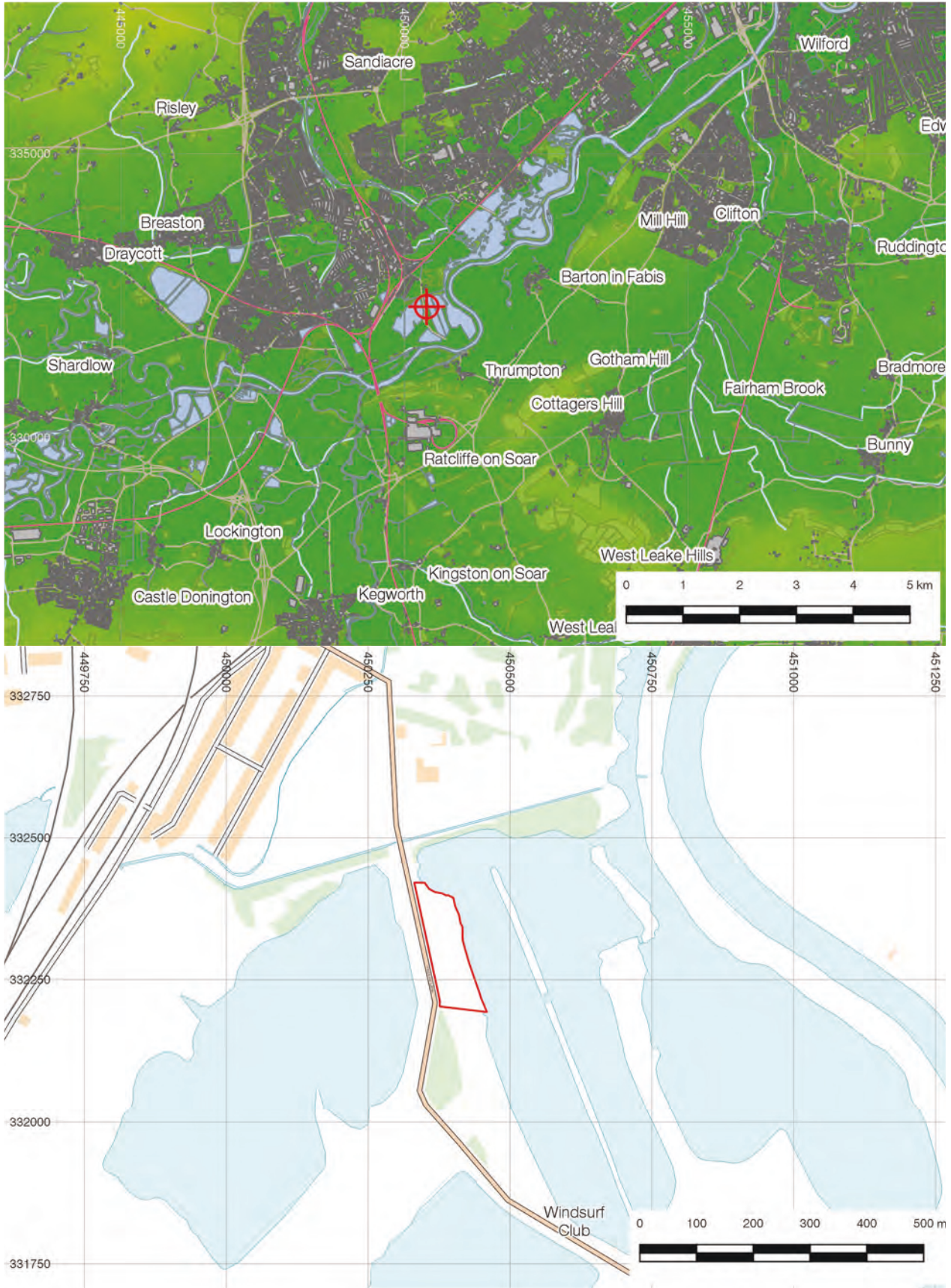
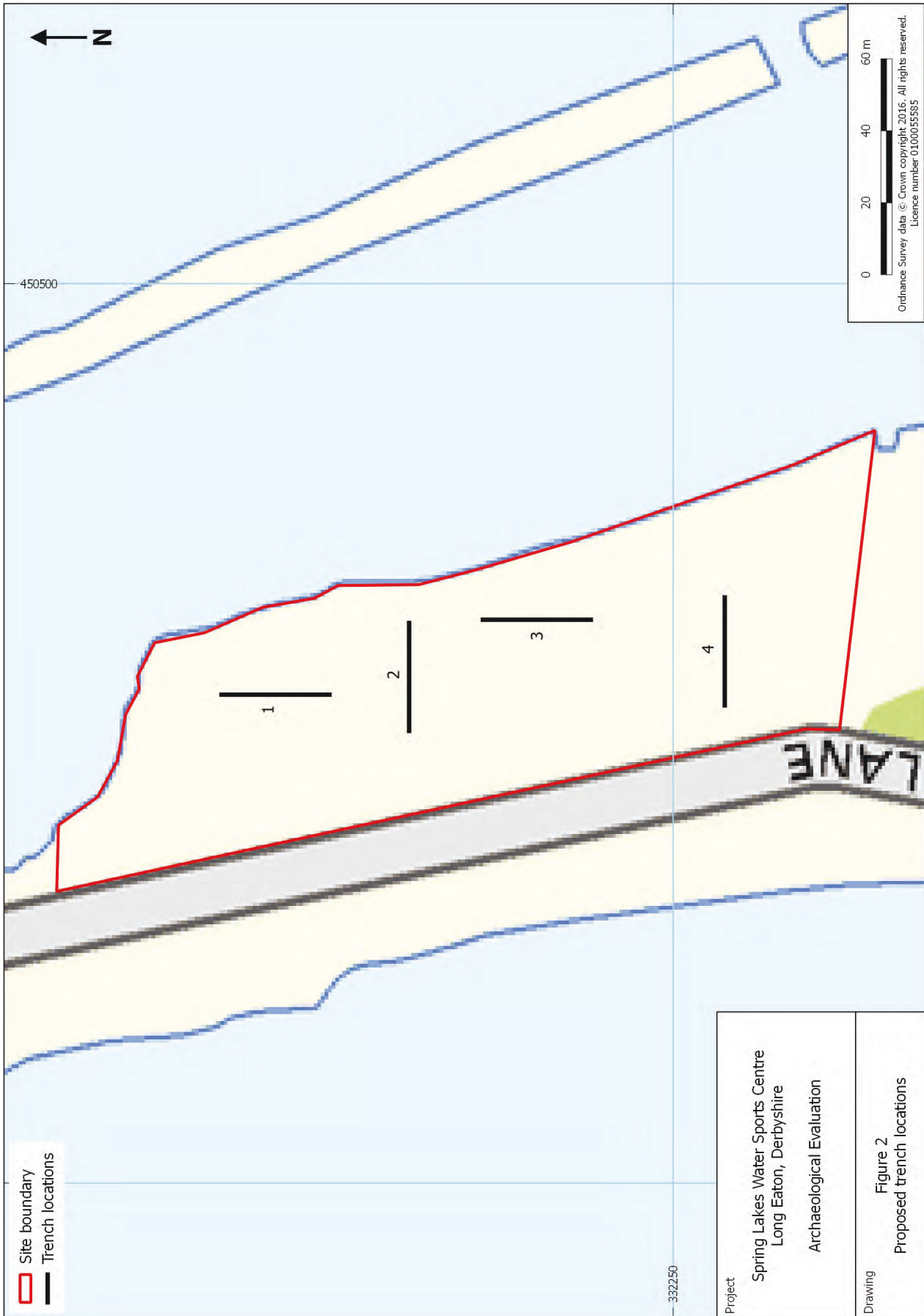


Figure 1 Site Location



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 PREVIOUS WORK

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on this site, although the proposed site of the new building corresponds to an area in which a range of archaeological artefacts have been recovered, including Roman pottery and prehistoric flints (Derbyshire HER 25589 and EDR 3375). Aerial photographs of the area, which were taken prior to gravel extraction, recorded cropmarks which indicated possible early settlement here. In addition to this, the remains of a medieval boat have also been recovered from the edge of the gravel pit to the east, though it is thought that this was not *in situ*.

2.2 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Any potential evidence relating to Roman period or prehistoric settlement would potentially be of regional significance.

2.3 RELEVANT RESEARCH AREA

Given the lengthy and constant use of this landscape from at least the Mesolithic period onwards, the evaluation has the potential to address numerous themes identified as priorities for further study within the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). Given the lack of previous work on this site, it is uncertain exactly which themes might be most likely to be addressed at this stage.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 EVALUATION

An archaeological field evaluation is defined as:

“... a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.” (ClfA 2014b, 4).

The overarching aim of the evaluation is:

- To gain information about the archaeological resource within the site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the context of the proposed development.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- To attempt to establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate the threat to the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation, if required.
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014a) and the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014b).
- To ensure compliance with the WSI (this document).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 TRENCH LOCATIONS

The evaluation will comprise 4 no. evaluation trenches. The location of the proposed trenches is shown on Figure 2.

4.2 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Initial excavation will be undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to the first archaeological horizon. Where standing structures are encountered, their full extent within the trench will be exposed and recorded. Where cut features are exposed, they will be cleaned and delimited as much as is practicable within the area of the trench and investigated using the sampling strategy outlined in Table 5 below. Where cut features contain material culture or palaeoenvironmental remains of significance then they will be subject to a more rigorous sampling strategy, usually including 100% excavation of fill material and palaeoenvironmental sampling as detailed in section 5.6 below. All intersections of features will be investigated in a manner appropriate to ascertain their stratigraphic relationship.

The evaluation trenching will continue in a controlled manner until natural substratum has been reached, in order to ensure that all archaeological features and strata are adequately characterised. Given the topographical and geomorphological setting of the proposed development site, it is not anticipated that there will be a need for a 'second strip' to remove alluvial or colluvial sediment units that may have buried earlier remains.

Size/Nature of Feature	Minimum percentage of fill excavated and sampled
Cut feature less than c. 1 m in diameter or equivalent area	50%
Cut feature greater than c. 1 m in diameter or equivalent area	25% or until form, function and date can be adequately characterised
Linear features	10% in 1 m slots evenly spaced along the length of the features though focussing on junctions and relationships with other features where present. Minimum sample of 2 m where the linear feature is less than 20 m in total length.

Table 1 Sampling strategy for investigation of cut features

4.3 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

All archaeological features will be recorded on *pro forma* sheets, creating a primary written record that will be accompanied by drawn and photographic records. A site diary giving a summary of each day's work will also be maintained including overall interpretive observations.

A drawn record will be compiled of all features, including plan and section/profile illustrations at a suitable scale (usually 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50) depending on the complexity and significance of the remains.

The photographic record of the monitoring will be undertaken in high-resolution digital format. Photographs will be taken of all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features in addition to general site photography locating the individual features in their wider context.

All trenches will be located and tied to the National Grid at a scale of 1:2500 or 1:1250 as practical. All features will be located accurately within this area and their height also accurately recorded above Ordnance Datum. The same level of accuracy will be applied to measuring the respective heights of the top and base of excavations.

4.4 SMALL FINDS

All small finds will be initially retained and bagged by context for assessment at the post-fieldwork stage.

Small finds will be handled, packed and stored in accordance with the guidelines in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

In the event that finds of 'treasure' are uncovered, then the local Coroner will be informed and the correct procedures will be followed as outlined under the *Treasure Act* 1996.

4.5 HUMAN REMAINS

In the event of human remains being uncovered, including evidence of cremations, these will be initially left *in situ*, protected and covered from view. Should removal of the remains be deemed necessary then a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) prior to excavation proceeding. Exhumation of human remains will proceed in accordance with the MoJ licence and all health and safety regulations and guidance.

4.6 SCIENTIFIC AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING STRATEGY

4.6.1 AIM OF THE SAMPLING STRATEGY

Given the uncertainty of the presence or level of archaeological remains likely to be encountered as part of this evaluation, the general aim of the scientific and palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy is:

- To provide information on the nature of human activity and the past environment in the immediate area, in relation to the archaeological deposits uncovered during the project.

4.6.2 OVERVIEW

Sampling levels and feature-specific approaches will vary in accordance with the characteristics and potential of individual features to address the aims and objectives outlined above. Sampling and assessment methodologies will follow best practice as set out in relevant guidance documents, including *Environmental Archaeology* (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

4.7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

All archaeological work will be undertaken in a safe manner in compliance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act* 1974. A full risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of the commencement of work, a copy of which will be available on site for the duration of the fieldwork. Solstice Heritage LLP has a full Safety, Health and Environment Policy which can be supplied upon request.

4.8 EXTENSIVE REMAINS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT FINDS

In the event of discovery of archaeological remains that are more extensive and/or significant than could reasonably have been anticipated then the following procedure will be followed:

- Where remains can be rapidly characterised within the scope of this stage of work, including a small extension to existing trenching, this will be undertaken following agreement with the client and the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist.
- If, following consultation with the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist and client, a further stage of evaluation is deemed necessary and proportionate to the potential significance of the archaeological remains, a modified WSI or addendum to this document will be prepared and agreed with all stakeholders.
- Where remains are significant, but are characterised by this phase of evaluation to a degree where their significance and extent can be understood, then the most suitable course may be the agreement with the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist and the client of a programme of appropriate mitigation.

5. POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

5.1 SMALL FINDS PROCESSING

All finds will be processed and catalogued in line with standard guidance documents including *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2014c).

5.2 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

After processing, artefacts and ecofacts will be quantified and assessed to provide an overview of their potential to meet the aims and objectives of the project. This will be undertaken, where necessary, by a relevant specialist, as set out below, and will include a statement on the potential and requirement for further analysis. Where extensive analysis is recommended and justified by the potential of the assemblage or sample then this will be undertaken after agreement with the client and Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist.

5.3 REPORTING

Following completion of any specialist assessment and analysis, all information will be synthesised in a project report, which will include as a minimum:

- Planning application number, OASIS reference number and site grid reference
- A non-technical summary of results
- Introduction
- Aims and method statement
- Legislative, policy and guidance framework
- Summary of data outlining all archaeological deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts and spot dating of significant finds
- Specialist reports (where necessary)
- Discussion of results
- Illustrative photography
- Location plan of the site of at least 1:10000 scale
- Extent plan of the area of monitoring at a suitable and recognised scale positioning all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features and deposits in relation to the national grid
- Plans and section of all archaeological trenches and features at a suitable scale (see section 4.2 above)
- Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels on plans and incorporated into the text

Any variation to the minimum requirements above will be approved in advance and in writing by the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist. One bound hard copy and one digital copy will be supplied to the client and to the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist upon completion.

5.4 ARCHIVING

Within 6 months of the completion of all post-fieldwork stages of the project, a full archive will be compiled and deposited with the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be compiled in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA 2014d). The archive and all material contained in it will be compiled according to the guidelines of the recipient museum, and will include as a minimum:



- Submission of a Project Initiation Form
- Allocation of a unique contractor's site code
- A list of archive contents, by box if required
- Hard copies of all relevant project documentation
- Digital material created for the project
- Artefacts and ecofacts for which there is a reason for retention (e.g. inherent significance, potential for future analysis).
- Submission of a Project Completion Form

Should there be no material archive arising from the project then, as a minimum, the project report will be submitted to the Derbyshire HER in bound hard copy and digital format, and project details and a copy of the report will be made available through OASIS (see below).

5.5 OASIS

Solstice Heritage LLP is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project and fully supports all project documentation and records being made available through the OASIS website. Upon completion of the post-fieldwork reporting and archiving, an OASIS record will be completed, and a copy of the project report will be uploaded.

5.6 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

In the event that formal publication and/or wider dissemination is deemed necessary, then a suitable format will be agreed with the client and the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist. This may include a digital download document made freely available or publication in a local, regional or national journal.

6. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

6.1 FIELDWORK STAFF

The project will be managed by Chris Scott of Solstice Heritage LLP. Chris holds full accredited professional membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) at MCIfA level. It is anticipated that the fieldwork will also be supervised by Chris Scott MCIfA and Ben Moore of Solstice Heritage LLP, though in the event of a change, details of fieldwork staff will be confirmed in writing to the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist prior to commencement.

6.2 POST-FIELDWORK STAFF

The post-fieldwork reporting and archiving will also be managed by Chris Scott. Details of any other post-fieldwork or reporting staff will be confirmed in writing to the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist prior to commencement.

6.3 SPECIALIST INPUT

Should specialist input be required for assessment and analysis at post-fieldwork stage, then it is intended that the following specialists be used:

Specialism	Specialist	Company/Institution
Lithics	Spencer Carter	TimeVista Archaeology
Prehistoric pottery	Dr Jane Timby	Independent Specialist
Romano-British Pottery	Dr Jane Timby	Independent Specialist
Roman brick/tile	Dr Jane Timby	Independent Specialist
Early glasswork	Dr Hilary Cool	Barbican Research Associates
Medieval/Post-medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn	Independent Specialist
Archaeometallurgy	Dr Gerry McDonnell	Gerry McDonnell Archaeometallurgy
Clay pipe	Dr Susie White	University of Liverpool
Industrial/later glasswork	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Industrial/later metalwork	Chris Scott	Solstice Heritage LLP
Medieval/later CBM	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Conservation of artefacts	Jennifer Jones	Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU)
Botanical macrofossils	Dr Charlotte O'Brien	ASDU
Pollen	Dr Charlotte O'Brien	ASDU
Human remains	Malin Holst	York Osteoarchaeology
Faunal remains	Louisa Gidney	Independent specialist
All dating techniques	Dr Gordon Cook	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC)

Table 2 Proposed specialist input to post-fieldwork stages

This list is subject to change depending on individual availability of specialists and the specific requirements of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains uncovered during the course of fieldwork. Liaison will also be undertaken with the relevant Historic England Scientific advisor, as appropriate.

6.4 FIELDWORK PROGRAMME

It is currently intended that the works be undertaken during February 2019.

6.5 POST-FIELDWORK PROGRAMME

The post-fieldwork process will commence immediately upon completion of the fieldwork. Unless a more in-depth post-fieldwork process has been agreed as an addendum to this document, then a report will be compiled within two months, subject to any required specialist input. An OASIS record will be completed and any archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the post-fieldwork phase.

6.6 MONITORING

The local planning authority contact for monitoring of the project will be:

Sarah Whiteley
Development Control Archaeologist
Derbyshire County Council
Direct Line: 01629 539774
E-mail: sarah.whiteley@derbyshire.gov.uk

7. SOURCES

7.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Campbell, G., Moffett, L. and Straker, V. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second edition)*. London, English Heritage.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014c. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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Erewash Borough Council. 2014. *Erewash Core Strategy*. Ilkeston, Erewash Borough Council.

English Heritage (EH). 2008. *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*. London, English Heritage.

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*. Nottingham, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2018. *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



APPENDIX 1 - POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within the proposed project is set out in Table 1 below.

Title	Key Points
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002)	Scheduled Monuments, as defined under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), are sites which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. Where scheduled sites are affected by development proposals there is a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Any works, other than activities receiving class consent under The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1981, as amended by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1984, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering-up a Scheduled Monument require consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Buildings of national, regional or local historical and architectural importance are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Buildings designated as 'Listed' are afforded protection from physical alteration or effects on their historical setting.

Table 3 Legislation relating to relevant cultural heritage in planning

POLICY

NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2018) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Para.	Key Points
8	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of one of the key objectives contributing to sustainable development.
189	During the determination of applications "local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". This information should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and only enough to "understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance".
190	Paragraph 190 identifies that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise.
193	'Great weight' should be given the conservation of a designated heritage asset irrespective of the level of 'harm' of a proposed development. However, the more important the asset, the greater the weight given.
194	'Harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage assets...should require clear and convincing justification'. In terms of the levels of designated heritage assets, substantial harm to Grade II listed buildings and parks and gardens should be exceptional, and to all other (the highest significance of) designated assets wholly exceptional.
195	Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset will be refused unless it is outweighed by substantial public benefits.
196	Where there is 'less than substantial harm' to a designated heritage asset, the decision will weigh this harm against the public benefit of the proposal 'including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.
197	For decisions affecting non-designated heritage assets 'a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset'.

Table 4 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage (archaeology)

LOCAL

Under planning law, the determination of an application must be made, in the first instance, with reference to the policies of the local development plan. For the proposed development, this comprises the *Erewash Core Strategy*, adopted in 2014 (Erewash Borough Council 2014), which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Policy	Key Text
11	<p>'1. Proposals and initiatives will be supported where the significance of heritage assets and their settings would be sustained or enhanced. Planning decisions will take into account the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring.</p> <p>2. Local Development Documents will take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, as well as the contribution made by the historic environment to an area's sense of place.</p> <p>3. A variety of strategic approaches will be used to assist in the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and to ensure that evidence about the historic environment and heritage assets is publicly documented:</p> <p>a) considering investment in and enhancement of historic places including the public realm and the setting of heritage assets;</p> <p>b) publishing proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas in the form of management plans;</p> <p>c) considering the use of Article 4 directions to control the impact of permitted development on the historic environment;</p> <p>d) identifying heritage assets worthy of designation locally, including the identification of potential conservation areas;</p> <p>e) appraising the character of existing conservation areas;</p> <p>f) requiring developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part); and</p> <p>g) considering the need for the preparation of further local evidence.</p> <p>4. The impact upon the historic environment of planning policies and decisions will be monitored. Particular attention will be paid to the degree to which individual or groups of heritage assets are at risk of neglect, decay or other threats.'</p>

Table 5 Summary of relevant local planning policy

GUIDANCE

NATIONAL

During the assessment and preparation of this document, the following guidance documents have been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by Historic England and also provides a terminology for assessment of significance upon which much that has followed is based.
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA revised 2014b)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This work has been undertaken to these standards, as subscribed to by Solstice Heritage LLP.

Table 6 National guidance documentation consulted



