



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**18 Main Street, Carlton,
Leicestershire:**

**A Watching Brief
during the excavation of
Geo-technical Boreholes.**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



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October 2002

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Planning Application 02/0487/FUL

Summary

A watching brief was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on 3 boreholes at 18 Main Street Carlton Leicestershire in October 2002. The watching brief was during geotechnical works prior to proposed residential development. The aims of the watching brief were to ascertain the nature of the overburden on the site.

Layers of overburden were observed and recorded. This suggested that the ground level had been artificially raised to its current level, although no evidence for recent or historical landfill was observed.

Introduction

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief, undertaken during the excavation of three geo-technical boreholes at Lehigh, 18 Main Street, Carlton, Leicestershire (Fig. 1) as part of a planning application to erect four dwellings. The work was commissioned by The Design Buro and was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on the 8th of October 2002. This work follows a brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist (Museums, Arts and Records Service 2002) requiring an archaeological evaluation of the site. A watching brief was undertaken because of the possibility that the ground had formerly been used for landfill.

Archaeological Background

The proposed development is situated within the historic core of Carlton (Fig. 2) on the south side of the main street. The site lies to the west of St Andrews Church and the Manor House. The land use is currently a domestic property with hard standing to the front and lawn to the rear.

Aims

The objective of the watching brief was to ascertain the nature of the deposits overlying the natural ground surface. In particular to determine if the site displayed any characteristics of terracing or landfill. Any former works of this nature would have a direct implication for the survival of archaeological deposits.

Method

A total of three boreholes were excavated by means of a mechanical drilling rig which removed window samples measuring 8cm in diameter and approximately 1m in length. Each borehole was excavated to an average depth of 6m. Samples were examined and recorded by means of scale drawing, photography and pre-printed *pro-formas*.

Results

Borehole 1

This was excavated in the rear garden of the property in an area of lawn. The earliest layer was at a depth of 4.50m from the current ground surface and consisted of a brown-yellow slightly sandy clay with manganese flecking throughout (1008). Above this layer was a dark red clay layer (1007) which appeared devoid of inclusions but displayed some grey marbling, this layer was encountered at a depth of 1.12m below ground level. This was overlain by yellow, slightly sandy clay (1006), encountered at a depth of 0.77m, which contained no obvious inclusions. The remaining layers (1005-1000) consisted of made-ground layers the depth of which appeared to directly correlate to depth of difference between garden level and that of the field to the fence at the rear of the property.

Context Number	Description	Depth below modern ground surface
1000	Turf	0
1001	Loose sand	4cm
1002	Friable, brown silt-clay with charcoal flecking	11cm
1003	Dark grey rubble clay layer, coal flecks visible	16cm
1004	Compact silt clay with some rubble inclusions	32cm
1005	Mid grey slightly silty clay, quite compact.	55cm
1006	Slightly sandy yellow clay, no obvious inclusions.	77cm
1007	Dark red compact clay, some grey marbling	1.22m
1008	Yellow-brown compact clay with manganese flecks	4.50m

Table 1, Borehole 1: results of window sampling

Borehole 2

This was located to the front of the property and was dug through a herringbone patterned brick paved area. The stratigraphy here was very similar to that seen in Borehole 1 with the exception of brick and sand within the upper 0.21cm of the borehole.

Context number	Description	Depth below modern ground surface.
2000	Brick Paving	0m
2001	sand	0.06m
2002	Dark flecked rubble clay with coal flecks	0.21m
2003	Brownish yellow sand-clay	0.77m
2004	Dark grey brown silt-clay with dark flecks	1.02m
2005	Mid brown-yellow sandy clay	1.22m
2006	Mid-dark brown-yellow clay with grey mottling	1.40m
2007	Dark red compact clay, some grey marbling.	4.68m
2008	Brown-yellow compact clay with manganese flecking	5.7m

Table 2, Borehole 2: results of window sampling

Borehole 3

This was located to the front of the property and was dug through a herringbone patterned brick paved area. The stratigraphy here was very similar to that seen in Borehole 1 with the exception of brick and sand within the upper 0.23m of the borehole.

Context number	Description	Depth below modern ground surface.
3000	Brick Paving	0m
3001	Builders sand	0.6m
3002	Dark flecked rubble clay with coal flecks	0.23m
3003	Brownish yellow sand-clay	0.80m
3004	Dark grey brown silt-clay with dark flecks	1.00m
3005	Mid brown-yellow sandy clay	1.30m
3006	Mid-dark brown-yellow clay with grey mottling	1.45m
3007	Dark red compact clay, some grey marbling.	4.63m
3008	Brown-yellow compact clay with manganese flecking	5.5m

Table 3, Borehole 3: results of window sampling

Discussion

The natural geology would appear to be represented by a brownish yellow sand-clay (1006, 2003 and 3003). This has been overlain by approximately 0.80m of made-ground, which is fairly consistent across the site. The made-ground consists of rubble clay with flecks of coal. This has probably been deposited fairly recently as a measure to level the current ground surface, and if archaeology is present within the site it would most likely be sealed by this deposit. There is no evidence for quarrying on the

site. Made-ground would appear to have been laid on the existing ground surface in order to terracc up rather than terracing down. It is not possible to determine the presence or absence of archaeology within the scope of these geo-technical works.

Acknowledgements

The watching brief was undertaken by Kate Bain for BUFAU. The work was commissioned by Terry Plant from The Design Buro. The report was edited by Richard Cuttler.

References

Museums, Arts and Record Service (2002). *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of Land At Lehigh, 18 Main Street, Carlton.*

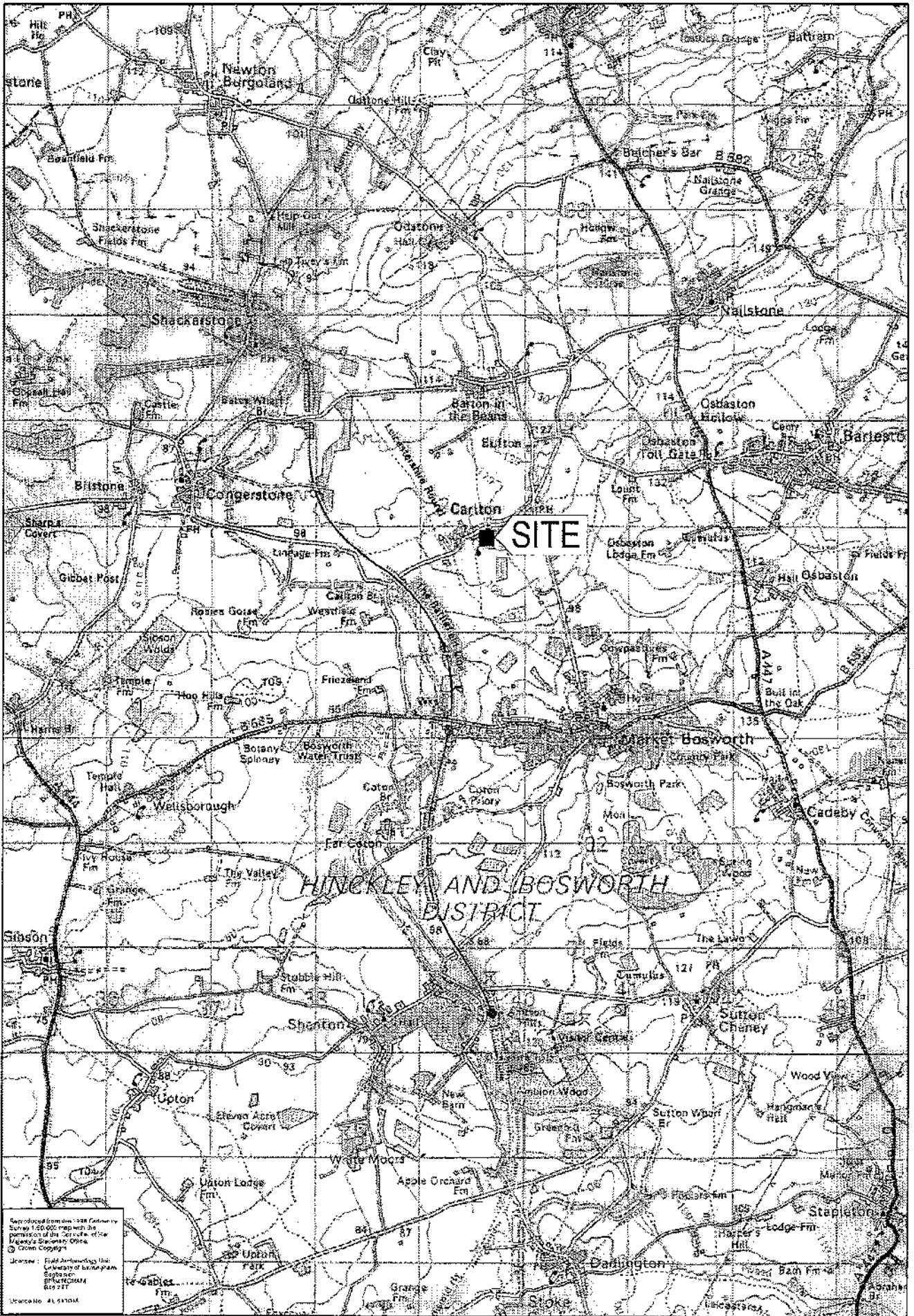


Fig. 1

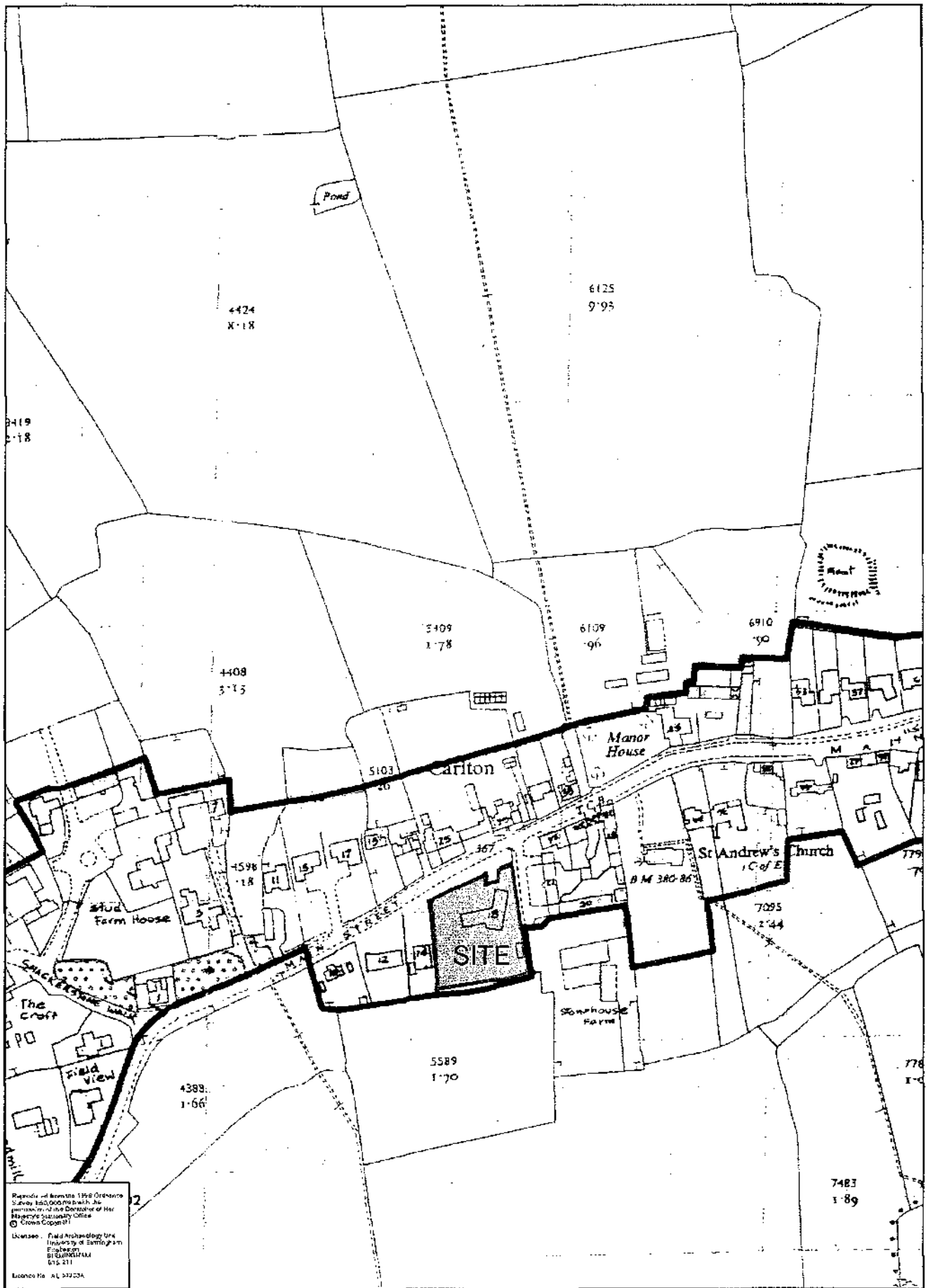


Fig.2