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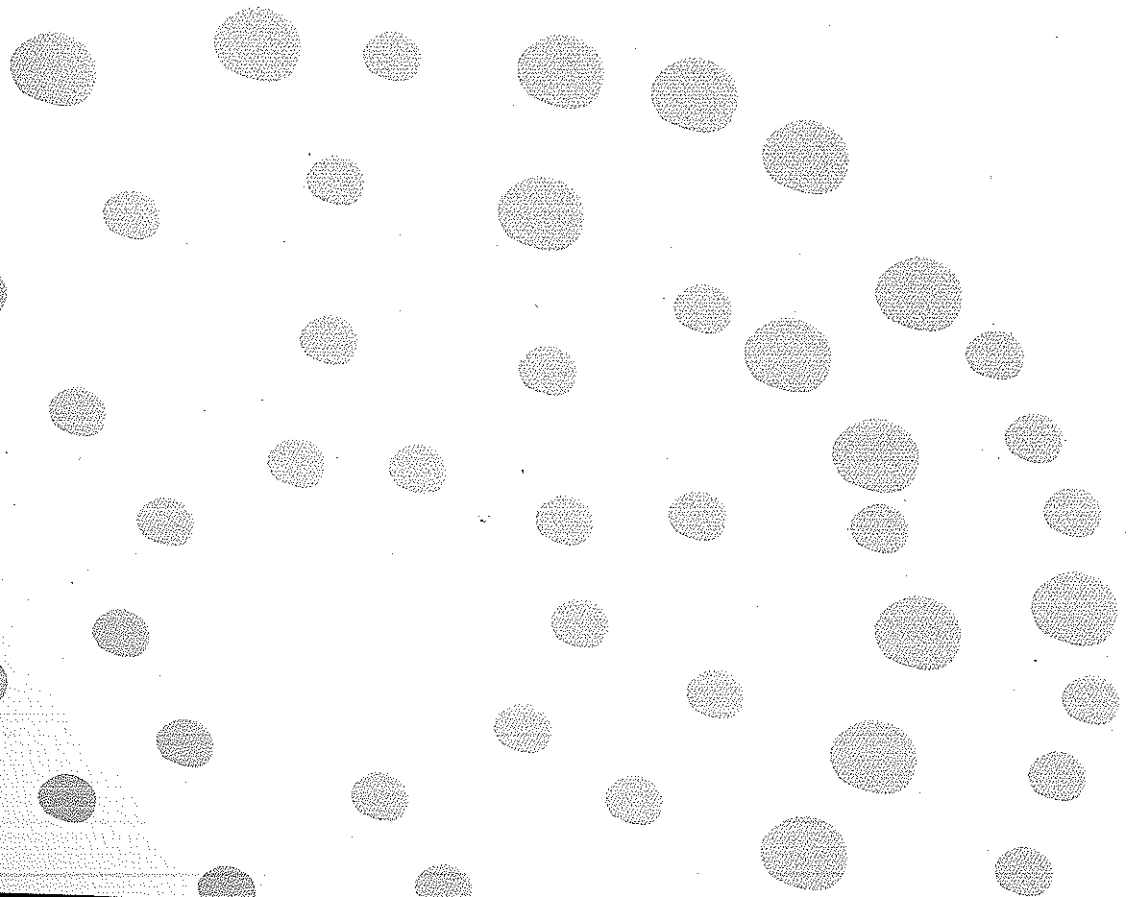
Shirebrook Colliery and Associated Land, Derbyshire.
Phase 2 Evaluation 2004



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# Shirebrook Colliery and Associated Land, Derbyshire, Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation 2004

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**Shirebrook Colliery and Associated Land, Shirebrook, Derbyshire**
**Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation 2004**

## 1.0: SUMMARY

*Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken adjoining Shirebrook Colliery, Derbyshire (centred on NGR. SK 5182 6710) in April 2004. This followed the Phase 1 evaluation and a desk-based assessment of the Phase 1-2 areas which identified potential for the survival of prehistoric remains. A preliminary geophysical survey suggested the presence of archaeological features in some parts of the proposed development area. Trial trenching targeted these areas, as well as areas for which no archaeological information was available. The fieldwork was commissioned by East Midlands Development Agency through Wm Saunders Partnership, in advance of a proposed residential development.*

*A total of 27 trenches were excavated within the Phase 2 area. The trenches all revealed clay and/or limestone natural subsoil. No features of a archaeological, or possible archaeological interest could be identified.*

## 2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of trial-trenching within the Phase 2 area of a larger zone proposed for residential development adjoining Shirebrook Colliery, Shirebrook, Derbyshire (centred on NGR SK 51826710, Fig. 1). The area investigated in 2004 (designated the Phase 2 area) comprises parts of Fields 2, 5 and 6 (Fig. 2). The work was commissioned by East Midlands Development Agency through Wm Saunders Partnership, and was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in April 2004. The trial trenching followed a desk-based assessment (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2000). Phase 1 of the trial trenching was carried out in 2002 (Williams 2002), at which time the Phase 2 area was inaccessible.

The programme of trial trenching within the Phase 2 area was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (Birmingham Archaeology 2004) approved by Derbyshire County Council.

## 3.0: SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

Overall, the proposed development site comprises of c. 38 hectares of land close to Stinting Lane in Shirebrook, Derbyshire (NGR SK 5182 6710). The area is currently mostly arable farmland, with an area of open common to the west. A new road, the Perimiter Access Road (PAR) has been constructed within part of the Phase 1 evaluation area.

The geology here is shallow, well drained calcareous fine loamy soils, over silty clay natural subsoil and limestone bedrock (SSEW 1983).

## 4.0: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located within an area of known archaeological significance. The Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record contains reference to the recovery of a small quantity of prehistoric flint waste flakes and the survival of associated burnt material from within the site (SMR 12534 and 12535 respectively) which suggests some prehistoric activity, such as encampments or settlements, within its immediate environs (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999).

In addition, an archaeological evaluation at Stinting Lane, Shirebrook, to the north of the present site, was carried out in February 1998. It was followed by an excavation in July 1998. Both stages of work were carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit ahead of residential development (Hewitson and Mould 1998 and Mould 2000). Prior to these projects, no below-ground archaeological investigations had been conducted within the proposed development site or within its immediate environs. The evaluation comprised of a study of the available cartographic evidence, geophysical survey of three areas and the excavation of four trial-trenches. Archaeological features, which were potentially dated to the prehistoric period were identified in Trench 3 only. A larger area was opened up around Trench 3 during the excavation stage and this identified a small prehistoric enclosure, with associated pits and post-holes. Despite total sieving of the feature fills, artefacts were scarce and only a small assemblage of flints was recovered. No chronologically-diagnostic flint artefacts were identified and no charred plant remains or molluscs were recovered from the environmental samples.

The Phase 1 stage of trial trenching in March 2002 (Williams 2002) identified a cluster of small pits and gullies associated with a possible enclosure in Fields 1 and 3. No dating evidence was found within the fills of any of these features, making interpretation problematic. It is possible that these features were of prehistoric date and are broadly contemporary with the enclosure discovered in Stinting Lane, just to the north. A single unstratified prehistoric flint blade was recovered from Trench 42 in Field 4. A watching brief (Bain 2003) undertaken during construction of the Perimiter Access Road failed to identify any features, or possible features of archaeological interest.

## 5.0: AIMS

The objective of the programme of trial-trenching was to test possible anomalies of archaeological interest identified by the geophysical survey, and to provide an examination of areas for which no archaeological information was available. The trial trenching aimed to assess, amongst other variables, the presence, extent, absence, depth, quality, date and condition of preservation of archaeological remains and palaeo-environmental deposits within the proposed development area, in order to enable an

informed strategy for archaeological mitigation to be agreed, and implemented in advance of development.

## 6.0: METHOD (Fig. 2)

A total of 27 trenches were excavated, amounting to a 2% sample of the Phase 2 area. The trenches mainly measured 50m in length and 2m in width. Trenches were located to test anomalies, or possible anomalies of archaeological interest identified by the geophysical survey, and also to sample areas as widely as possible for which no archaeological information was available. Trenches 15-16 (Field 2) were re-located to the west to avoid an area of modern landfill. Trenches 51, 53 and 65 (Fields 5-6) were re-located to avoid overhead power lines.

Each of the trenches was located using a total station theodolite. The ploughsoil, and underlying subsoil, where present, were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket working under archaeological supervision, to expose the natural subsoil. Where appropriate, the natural subsoil was hand cleaned. The features, or possible features identified were hand excavated to provide information concerning the survival and complexity of feature fills, and to recover artifactual evidence. A detailed context record on individual *pro-forma* record cards was maintained and all features and trenches were photographed using both colour slide and black and white film. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, where features were identified. Excavated sections of individual features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20.

Subject to approval from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the paper and finds archive with a repository approved by Derbyshire County Council.

## 7.0: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (Table 1)

The natural subsoil was identified as a light yellow, fissured and weathered limestone, overlain in places by reddish brown silty clay. Patches of small/medium sized rounded stones were visible in this clay within the Field 2 trial-trenches. A b-horizon subsoil was present in most trenches, varying in depth between 0.05m and 0.1m, comprising a light brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. The ploughsoil over most of the site varied between 0.25m and 0.35m deep, and comprised dark brown clayey silt loam with occasional small rounded stones and small lumps of limestone.

Traces of modern plough furrows were noted in all six trenches in Field 2, cutting slightly into the natural subsoil at *c.*1.3m intervals. They were c. 0.2m wide and orientated east-west. No finds were recovered from any of these furrows.

No features or deposits of archaeological, or possible archaeological interest were noted in Fields 2 or 5. A single feature was identified within Trench 69 in Field 6. This feature was aligned northeast-southwest, c.2m wide and up to 0.18m deep (F6900, Fig. 3). It had

uneven edges and base and contained a dark black/brown silty clay (6901) with frequent large lumps of charcoal and flecking throughout, also a large amount of partially burnt roots. Some post-medieval pottery and a piece of glass were recovered from this fill. A light orange/brown silty clay (6903) measuring c. 0.05m in depth, disturbed by roots and containing no finds, overlay layer 6901. This feature was interpreted as a probable burnt hedgeline.

Unstratified post-medieval pottery was recovered from Trenches 64 and 69. No finds of earlier date were identified within the Phase 2 evaluation area.

**Table 1: Description of Trenches**

| *Tr.* | *Context No.* | *Topsoil details and depth* | *Subsoil details and depth* | *Description of natural* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 1500, 1501, 1502 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Reddish brown silty clay with patches of small/medium rounded stones |
| 16 | 1600, 1601, 1602 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Reddish brown silty clay |
| 17 | 1700, 1701, 1702 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3-0.35m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.1m deep | Reddish orange clay with patches of small/medium rounded stones |
| 19 | 1900, 1901, 1902 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Reddish orange clay with patches small/medium rounded stones and limestone |
| 20 | 2000, 2001, 2002 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.08m deep | Reddish orange clay with patches of limestone bedrock |
| 21 | 2100, 2101, 2102 | Mid/dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Red clay with patches of limestone bedrock and small/medium rounded stones |
| 46 | 4600, 4601, 4602 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.07m deep | Yellow limestone bedrock with occasional patches of orange silty clay |
| 47 | 4700, 4701, 4702 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.28m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.06m deep | Reddish orange silty clay with patches of small rounded stones |
| 48 | 4800, 4801, 4802 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.15m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.04m deep | Yellow limestone bedrock with patches of red silty clay |
| 49 | 4900, 4901, 4902 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.03m deep | Red orange silty clay with patches of limestone bedrock |
| 50 | 5000, 5001, 5002 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.04m deep | Red orange silty clay with patches of limestone bedrock |
| 51 | 5100, 5101, 5102 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.03m deep | Red orange silty clay with patches of limestone bedrock |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 5200, 5201, 5202 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.04m deep | Red orange silty clay with patches of limestone bedrock |
| 53 | 5300, 5301, 5302 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.25m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.04m deep | Yellow limestone bedrock with patches of red orange silty clay |
| 54 | 5400, 5401, 5402 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.23m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Yellow limestone bedrock with patches of red orange silty clay |
| 55 | 5500, 5501, 5502 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Yellow limestone bedrock with patches of red orange silty clay |
| 61 | 6100, 6101 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Not present | Light yellow limestone bedrock across entire trench |
| 62 | 6200, 6201 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.25m deep | Not present | Light yellow limestone bedrock across entire trench |
| 63 | 6300, 6301, 6302 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.09m deep | Red orange silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions |
| 64 | 6400, 6401, 6402 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Orange red silty clay |
| 65 | 6500, 6501 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.18m deep | Not present | Light yellow limestone bedrock with large patches of red orange silty clay |
| 66 | 6600, 6601 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.3m deep | Not present | Yellow limestone bedrock with red orange silty clay at both ends of the trench |
| 67 | 6700, 6701 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2-0.3m deep | Not present | Yellow limestone bedrock with red orange silty clay at the west end of the trench |
| 68 | 6800, 6801 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Not present | Red orange silty clay with small patches of yellow limestone bedrock |
| 69 | 6902, 6900 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Not present | Light yellow limestone bedrock with large patches of red orange silty clay |
| 70 | 7000, 7001, 7002 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.24m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Light yellow limestone bedrock with large patches of red orange silty clay |
| 71 | 7100, 7101, 7102 | Dark brown organic clayey silt c. 0.2m deep | Light brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones c. 0.05m deep | Light yellow limestone bedrock with small patches of red orange silty clay |

## 8.0: CONCLUSIONS

The results of Phase 2 trial-trenching have shown that there is little potential for the survival of below-ground archaeology in Fields 2, 5 and 6. No evidence was found for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period. Further archaeological work within this area is probably not merited.

## 9.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## 13.0: REFERENCES

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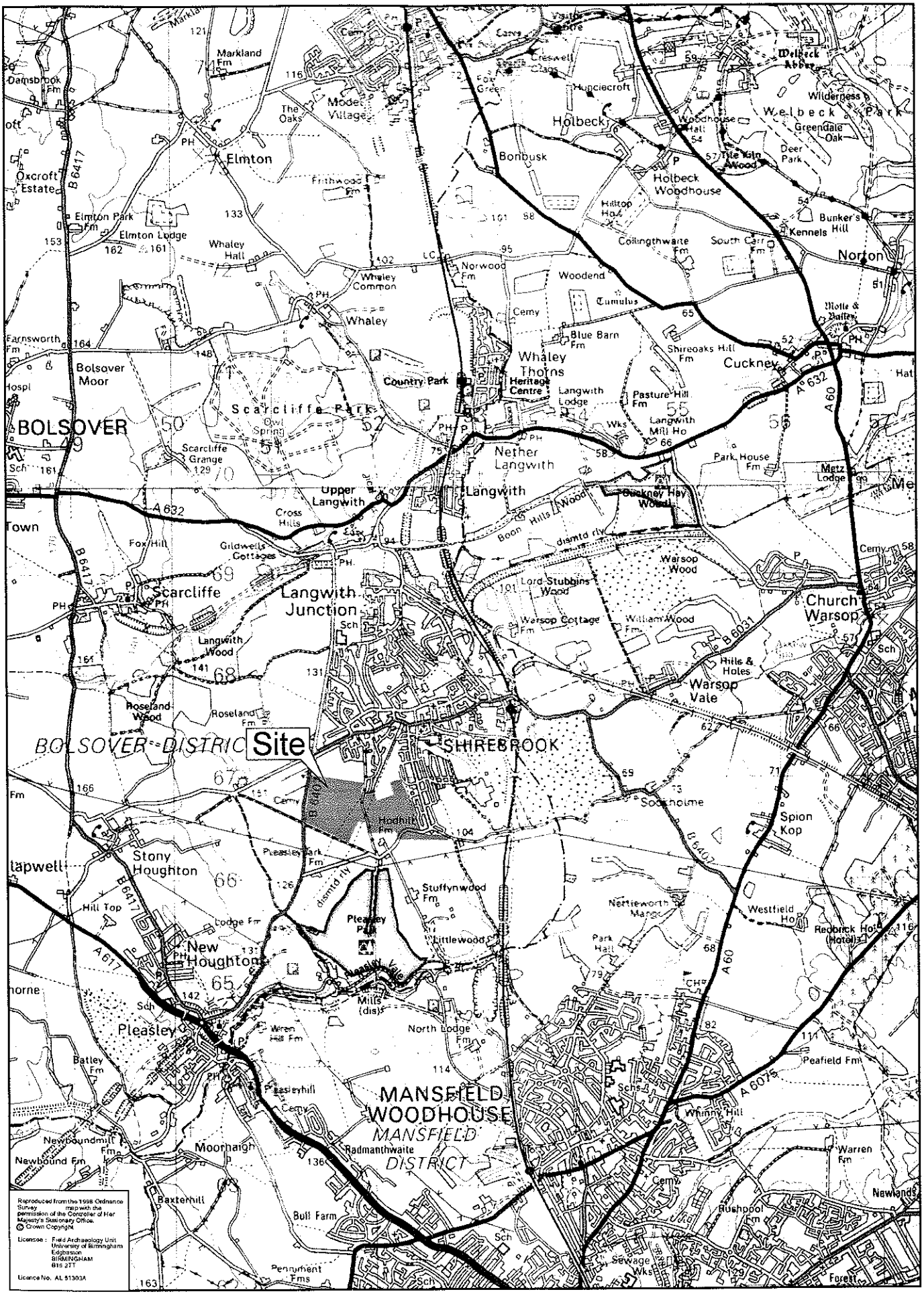
Site
BOLSOVER
BOLSOVER DISTRICT
SHIREBROOK
MANSFIELD
MANSFIELD DISTRICT
Scarcliffe
Langwith Junction
Upper Langwith
Nether Langwith
Langwith
Whaley Thorns
Elmton
Holbeck
Holbeck Woodhouse
Welbeck Park
Norton
Cuckney
Church Warsop
Warsop Vale
Spion Kop
Stony Houghton
New Houghton
Pleasley
Mansfield Woodhouse
Radmanthwaite
Country Park
Heritage Centre
Scarcliffe Park
Bolsover Moor
Whaley
Whaley Common
Whaley Hall
Elmton Park Fm
Elmton Lodge
Oxcroft Estate
Damsbrook Fm
Markland Fm
Model Village
The Oaks
Bonbusk
Hunciecroft
Wilderness
Greendale Oak
Deer Park
Bunker's Hill
Kennels
Collingthwaite Fm
South Carr Fm
Norwood Fm
Woodend
Cumulus
Blue Barn Fm
Shirecaks Hill Fm
Pasture Hill Fm
Langwith Lodge
Langwith Mill Ho
Park House Fm
Metz Lodge
Cuckney Hay Wood
Boon Hills Wood
Warsop Wood
Lord Stubbins Wood
Warsop Cottage Fm
William Wood
Hills & Holes
Soothouse
Hodnik Fm
Pleasley Park Fm
Stuffynwood Fm
Littlewood
Nettleworth Manor
Westfield Ho
Redbrick Ho (Hotel)
Park Hall
North Lodge Fm
Peafield Fm
Whinny Hill
Warren Fm
Newlands
Rushpool Fm
Sewage Works
Forest
Bull Farm
Pennurhent Fms
Baxterhill
Moorhaigh
Newboundmill Fm
Newbound Fm
Batley Fm
Pleasleyhill
Mills (dis)
Hill Top
Lodge Fm
Roseland Wood
Roseland Fm
Langwith Wood
Scarcliffe Grange
Owl Spring
Gildwells Cottages
Fox Hill
Cross Hills
Farnsworth Fm
Hospl
Sch
Cemy
PH
A632
A60
A617
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B6407
B6031
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Fig.1

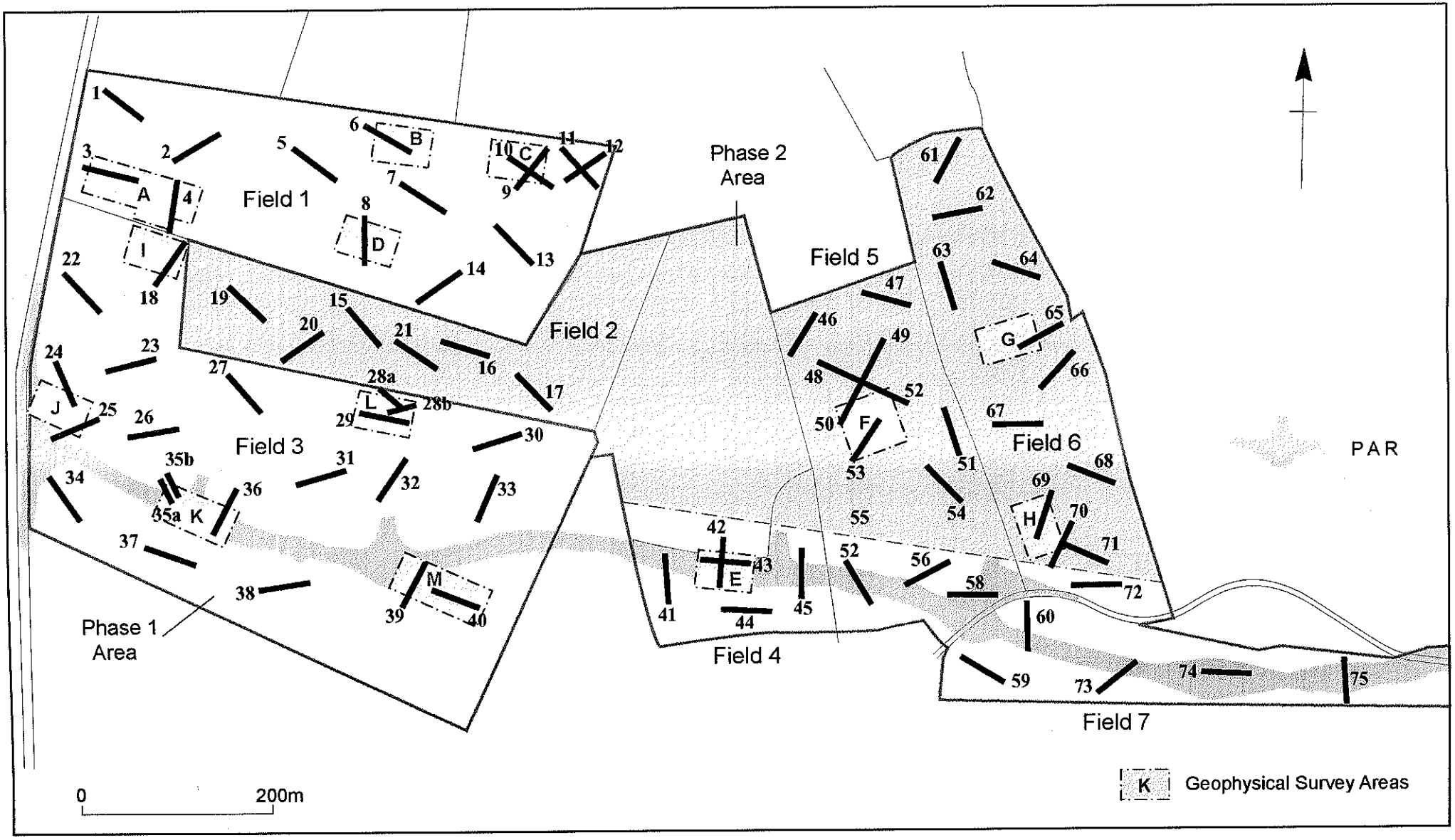
Field 1
Field 2
Field 3
Field 4
Field 5
Field 6
Field 7
Phase 1 Area
Phase 2 Area
PAR
0
200m
K Geophysical Survey Areas

Fig.2

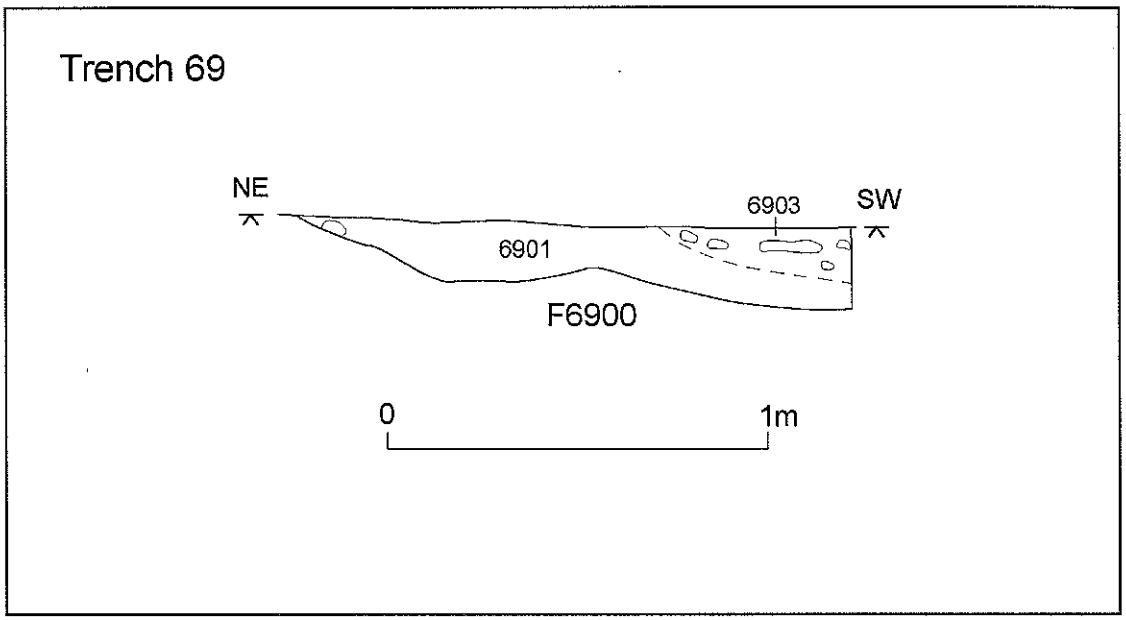


Fig.3

Plate 1

Plate 2