



Ashmead House

Hopkins Field, Long Marston, Warwickshire.

Ashmead House

Hopkins Field, Long Marston, Warwickshire, CV37 8QY.

Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment & Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation.

NGR: *SP 15478 48603*

Site code: *LM22*

OASIS ID: *110archa1-509585*

HER search ref: *22/256*

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23rd September 2022

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SUMMARY

An Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment was carried out during September 2022 at Ashmead House, Hopkins Field, Long Marston, Warwickshire, CV37 8QY to support a planning application for residential development of the site. The assessment showed that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the historic core of the ancient settlement. Current archaeological evidence relating to the development of a settlement at Long Marston suggests that it began in the medieval period, however, the absence of remains dated to earlier periods within the village itself may be the result of a paucity of archaeological interventions rather than a reflection of the pattern of ancient settlement. The assessment demonstrated moderate to high potential for archaeological remains associated with the medieval settlement within the area of the application site and field evaluation was recommended to investigate the potential for remains to be present. The results of the investigation would, if necessary, inform a mitigation strategy should the application be granted permission.

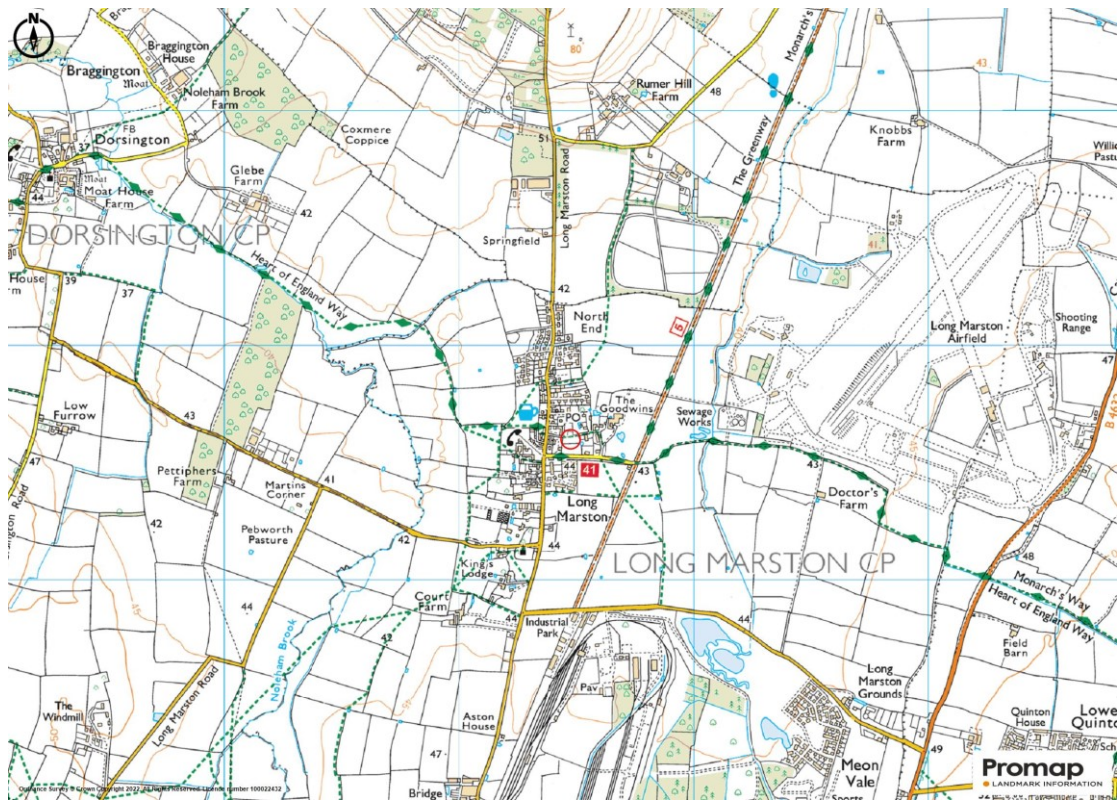


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)



Fig. 2; study site (outlined in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work

This document details the results of an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) carried out between 6th and 23rd September 2022 at Ashmead House, Hopkins Field, Long Marston, Warwickshire, CV37 8QY. The assessment is required by Stratford on Avon District Council in response to a proposal (*planning ref: 22/01952/OUT*) for residential development of the site comprising four detached dwellings. The application is to be supported by an assessment of the impact upon sub-surface archaeological remains within the site and if required, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation (investigative trenching) which would inform the planning authority of the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains when determining the application.

Geology and topography

Long Marston is a village about 5 miles (8km) southwest of Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. The southern and western boundaries of the parish form part of the county boundary with Worcestershire. The civil parish is called Marston Sicca. The 2011 Census recorded the parish's population as 436.

The site is situated roughly centrally within the historic core of the ancient village along the main road leading through the settlement. It consists of a rectangular plot of land amounting to about 2,500m² in an area currently referred to as Hopkins Field and lies at approximately 43m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), the underlying geology is Lower Lias (BGS, 1974).



Plate 1: Application site, view east.



Plate 2: Application site, view west.

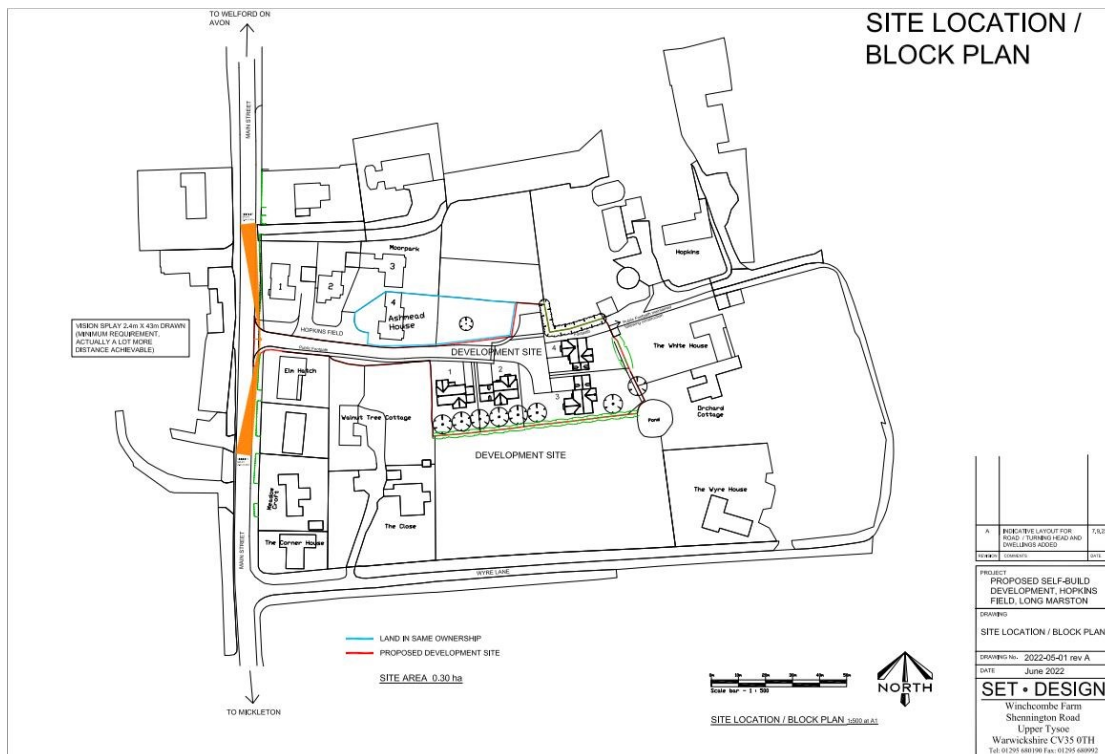


Fig. 3; Site plan showing proposed development

Aims and objectives

The objective of the desk-based assessment is to define the likely extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains within the application site so that if necessary appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. To aid the production of mitigation strategies the assessment will also include a plan showing the existing site lay out and a description of the proposed development indicating, where known, the predicted impact of the proposed foundations including drainage and services.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains. The framework sets out the obligations placed on the local planning authority (Chapter 12, paragraphs 128 & 129) through the development and implementation of a local plan. In accordance with NPPF an application should be accompanied by an assessment of significance (DBA) to inform the application process to an extent necessary to understand the potential impact (positive or negative) of the proposal on the heritage asset and its setting.

'A desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic

environment within a specified area, and the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so' (CIfA, 2014).

NPPF Chapter 12; Paragraph 128 states:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed, includes, or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.'

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Historical summary

The village of Long Marston was originally known as Marston Sicca. The main part of the name, Marston, is a common English name meaning marsh, farm or village. It is derived from two old English words "Merse", meaning marsh and "Tun" meaning farm or village.

The first written evidence of a settlement was in 1043 when Earl Leofric granted Long Marston to the monks of Coventry on condition that a church was built within the Parish. The village is mentioned in William I's Domesday Book in 1086 and was then in Gloucestershire. Some 200 years later the 'Manor' was sold to the Abbey of Winchcombe for 1130 marks (£753.33). It seems most likely that it was they who built the church of St James the Great sometime in the middle of the 14th Century.

In 1479 William Tomes took a lease on the Abbey Manor, at a yearly rent of £8.66, by this agreement the Lordship of the Manor was divorced from the land itself. Fifty years later came the dissolution of the monasteries and the Abbey of Winchcombe, landlord of Long Marston for 300 years, ceased to exist when the

crown took possession of Abbey lands. There the ownership remained until 1566 when Queen Elizabeth I granted the Lordship and the Manor of Long Marston to Robert, Earl of Leicester. In 1577, John Kecke and John Tomes, both yeomen, purchased the land and manor although the Earl of Leicester retained the Lordship of the Manor until about 1602 when it was sold to Edward Sheldon, who was from a well known Warwickshire family. The Sheldons, at intervals, held a court on the village, presumably at Court Farm.

The three principal families of the times were Tomes, Kecke, and Cooper. The Tomes family were associated with the village until the sale of King's Lodge in 1976. It was at this residence in 1651 that Charles II stayed for one night, being a fugitive after his disastrous defeat at the battle of Worcester. The house known as Hopkins in Wyre Lane is reputed to be one of the oldest remaining in Warwickshire having been constructed in the 14th century with additional work done in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Orchards and allotments dominated the village in the early 19th and 20th centuries, but now only none remain, having been lost to building and economic change.

Historic Environment Record

Prehistoric

There are currently no records associated with prehistoric activity within a 1km search area centered on the site.

Roman

A possible Roman settlement (mwa9139) including a probable ditch and pits was indentified southeast of Long Marston during archaeological recording ahead of gas pipe laying and may indicate rural settlement in this area (Thompson and Palmer, 2002).

Medieval

Long Marston is recorded in Domesday, St. Mary's Priory and Cathedral in Merestone, holds 10 hides. In lordship 3 ploughs; 15 villagers and 3 smallholders with 12 ploughs. 6 slaves; meadow at 10s. The value was £8; now 100s. The name of the hundred, Celfledethon, means Ceolfleds thorn, perhaps indicating that the original meeting place in the centre of the hundred was a thorn tree.

The Church of St James, Long Marston ([mwa1823](#)) was originally built during the Medieval period.

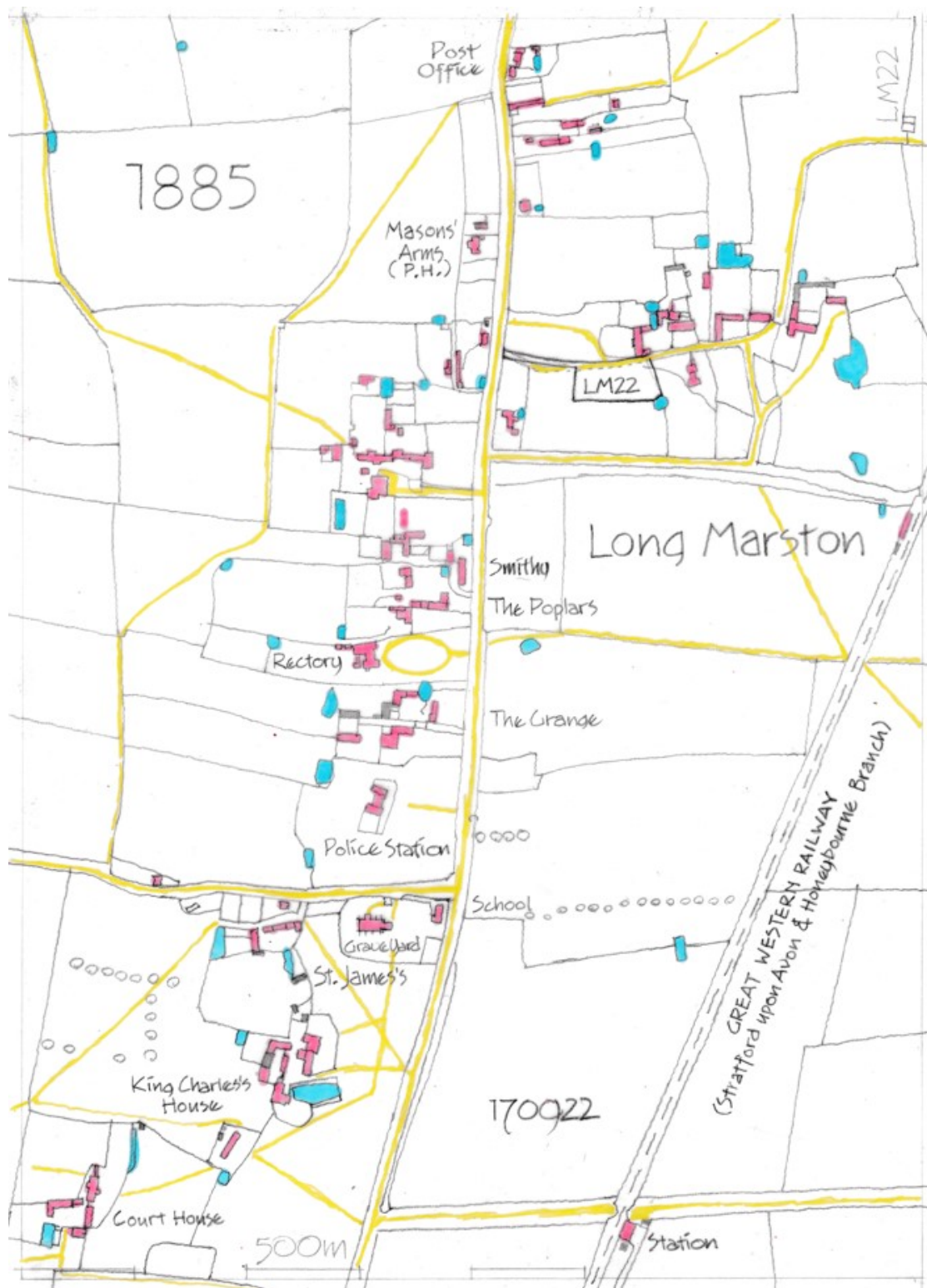


Fig. 4: Historic Environment plan with site location.

Medieval (cont.)

Ridge and furrow cultivation and field boundaries ([mwa6459](#); [mwa30600](#); [mwa30644](#); [mwa6449](#)) are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs around the village. These features are believed to mark the extent of the Medieval settlement of Long Marston.

The site of the Medieval shrunken village of Long Marston ([mwa6450](#)) is located to the south of the site between Wyre Lane and the church. Earthworks, which are visible on aerial photographs, suggest that Long Marston village was once larger

To the northeast of the site along Wyre Lane is the property known as Hopkins ([mwa31083](#)). The building is a two bay hall with a central base cruck truss and aisled end trusses, which has been dendrochronologically dated to 1339-40. A cross passage may have been located in the area of the later stairs. The original house did not extend to the west and it probably had a cross wing on the side of the later east wing, which may have been the kitchen. To the east of Hopkins is a cottage with C15 origins ([dwa4729](#)). [mwa30031](#)

A foundation wall and robbed out trench ([mwa30031](#)) were revealed during trial trenching at land to the rear of Troon and Chestnut Cottages in Pear Tree Close (Moore, 2014). These were overlain by deposits containing medieval pottery fragments. Together these features were identified as probably identifying the footprint of a C14-C15 building. The conspicuous absence of pegged roof tile was interpreted as suggesting that the building was originally thatched.

Post-medieval

Historic building recording ([mwa31317](#)) at Forest Farmhouse, Main Street, Long Marston found that the mid to late C18 farmhouse has a timber framed core dating to the late C16 to early C17. Atherton J & Cook S. 2016. Forest Farm, Welford Road, Long Marston; historic building recording.

King's Lodge, Long Marston ([mwa7558](#)) is a stone built house of Post Medieval date situated at the southern end of Long Marston that was partially rebuilt in brick or rendered in the 19th century. Charles II is believed to stayed here overnight during his retreat from the Battle of Worcester.

Undated

An undated human burial ([mwa2790](#)) was found during dredging works on the Noleham Brook about 600m west of Long Marston. The body was orientated E-W and was not accompanied by grave goods.

A group of shallow gullies and pits of uncertain date ([mwa8713](#)) were found during archaeological work in Wyre Lane to the south of the site and may have been associated with Medieval agriculture (Parry, 1998).

DISCUSSION

The results of the HER search have shown little evidence of prehistoric activity at Long Marston. There is also little evidence of Roman occupation within the village itself although Roman settlement activity within the parish ([mwa9139](#)) has been recorded recently to the southwest during construction of a gas pipeline.

Current archaeological evidence relating to the development of a settlement at Long Marston suggests that it began in the medieval period although the absence of remains dated to earlier periods of occupation within the village itself may be more to do with the paucity of archaeological interventions rather than a reflection of the pattern of ancient settlement.

The application site lies within the historic core of the medieval settlement at Long Marston and although it is mentioned in Domesday little is known about the development of the village during this period. The extent of the settlement can be traced from the OS 1885 map and the outlying ridge and furrow earthworks identified from aerial photographs surrounding the village. The application site is situated within the historic core of the medieval settlement where there are extant medieval buildings ([mwa31083](#)) and also the remains of earlier medieval buildings ([mwa30031](#)) discovered during recent archaeological work with further evidence of medieval shrunken settlement remains ([mwa6450](#)) close by.

The assessment has demonstrated that there is also moderate to high potential for settlement deposits associated with the medieval occupation and development of the village to be present within the application site.

Impact & Recommendation

The proposed development comprises the construction of four large, detached dwellings with associated driveways, access road and services. The assessment has demonstrated that there is moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period to be present within the application site which lies within the historic core of Long Marston village. It is therefore recommended

that an investigative evaluation comprising trial trenching, the details of which are outlined in Appendix 1, should be carried out within the application site to inform, if required, an appropriate mitigation strategy prior to and/or during the proposed development.

Methodology

The assessment has been compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Guidance and Standards for an archaeological desk-based assessment & field evaluation (CIfA, 2014). The Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a search carried out within a 1km radius centred on the site. A visit to the site was carried out during 8th September.

Archive Location

The digital archive arising from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) via the online portal OASIS.

Timescales used in this report:

Palaeolithic 450,000-12,000 BC

Mesolithic 12,000-4,000 BC

Neolithic 4,000-1,800 BC

Bronze Age 1,800-600 BC

Iron Age 600-AD43

Roman AD43-410

Saxon/early medieval AD410-1066

Medieval AD 1066-1530

Post-medieval AD 1531-1800

Modern AD 1800-present

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Parry, S., 1998. *Wyre Lane, Long Marston: Archaeological Evaluation*.

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record 2022

Thompson P and Palmer S., 2002. *Transco Honeybourne to Newbold Pacey Gas Pipeline, Post-excavation assessment and publication proposal*.

APPENDIX 1: Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This WSI sets out details of a research design for an archaeological evaluation at the site, the work to be carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential as identified in the assessment. There is potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval features and deposits to survive within the site, that may be adversely affected by the proposed development.

2 Aims of the investigation

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to determine the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area likely to be threatened by the proposed development in order to inform the basis of a mitigation strategy.

In general, the aims of the investigation will include:

- i) establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site.
- ii) recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- iii) recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

More specifically, the aims of the investigation will include:

- iv) assessing the potential for Roman settlement remains within the village of Long Marston.
- v) assessing the potential for medieval settlement remains associated with the development of Long Marston village.

3 Field methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological field work and post-excavation assessment will be carried out in accordance with standards and guidance for archaeological

field evaluations produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020).

- 3.2 It is anticipated that the evaluation will comprise an approximate 5% sample of the application site amounting to a total of three trenches each at 30m long and excavated to a minimum width of approx. 1.5m.
- 3.3 Machine excavation will only be used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and will be used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining will be conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Excavation will continue by hand thereafter.

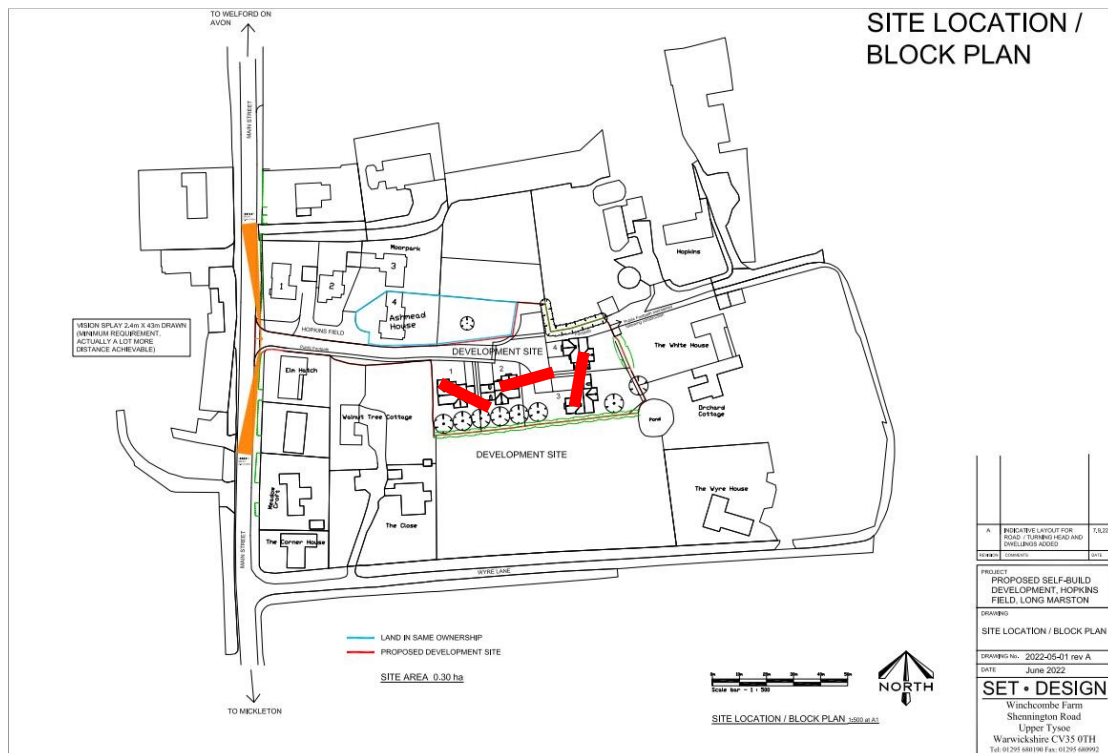


Fig. 5; proposed trench plan

4 Excavation Guidelines

- 4.1 A representative sample of any archaeological features or deposits that are identified will be excavated by hand. For the purposes of the report, the

site stratigraphy will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

- 4.2 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ.
- 4.3 Where human remains are encountered, these will be planned and recorded in detail and will initially be left in situ. Where excavation of remains is required, this will be conducted following the regulations of the requisite Home Office license.
- 4.4 Finds that constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner, in the event that they cannot be removed during the same day then suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.5 Due care will be taken to identify deposits that may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. This will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England, 2011). Samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential.

5 *Excavation of archaeological deposits.*

- 5.1 The various types of features and deposits revealed following the removal of non-significant overburden will be subject to the following sampling levels which will be undertaken by hand.
 - a) any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity (eg, burials, cremations) and domestic/industrial activity (post-holes, hearths, floor surfaces/floor make-up deposits) will if required, be investigated by removing a 100% sample of the deposit from each feature.
 - b) Pits will require a minimum of a 50% sample of the deposits from each feature, but a 100% sample may be necessary should significant assemblages of finds be present; linear features (eg, ditches/gullies,

paths/tracks) will require a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature.

6 *Recording of archaeological deposits*

- 6.1 During excavation all archaeological features revealed will be planned and recorded in accordance with the Museum of London Field Archaeology Manual a recognised standard for site recording during archaeological excavation. In the event, that no archaeological deposits are encountered, as an absolute minimum a written, drawn and photographic record will be compiled.
- 6.2 Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits will be recorded by drawn plans and sections at appropriate scales and related to the Ordnance datum. All finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record.
- 6.3 A photographic record of all stratigraphic units will be compiled in addition to a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work.

7 *Staff and timetable*

- 7.1 The project will be managed by Sean Cook BA (Hons) MCIfA, One Ten Archaeology who will also be responsible for on-site work. The team will consist of 1 site director and 1-2 assistants.
- 7.2 It is envisaged that excavation will require approximately 3-4 days to complete. Analysis of the results and completion of the final report will, dependent upon the results, take a minimum of 2-3 weeks.
- 7.3 Specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project during the post-excavation stage as necessary are:

Animal bone	Jen Wood
Coins	Karl Savage
Conservation	Pieta Greaves

Human skeletal remains	Gaynor Western
Pottery (post Roman)	Paul blinkhorn
Pottery (Roman)	Phil Mills
Pottery (prehistoric)	Elaine Morris
Small find ID	Nina Crummy
Palaeo-environmental	Val Fryer
Slag & hammerscale	Jennifer Sitwell

- 7.4 Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series, including the Warwickshire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

8 *Report and Archive preparation*

- 8.1 The archaeological archive and artefact collection arising from the work will be appropriately conserved and deposited with the Worcestershire Museum Service. Artefacts will be deposited subject to agreement with the legal landowner.

- 8.2 In preparation for museum deposition, all finds and samples will be cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed separately and related to the context record. Documentary records will be catalogued and appropriately conserved.

- 8.3 An illustrated report will be compiled detailing the results of the fieldwork and assessment of the artefacts, palaeo-environmental deposits etc. The report will include an assessment of the impact of the development on archaeological remains. The structure of the report will include the following:

A non-technical summary

Introduction

Methodology

Description of deposits

Finds

Discussion

Impact of development

Archive

- 8.4 A pdf copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the local authority.
- 8.5 An on-line form will be submitted to OASIS and it is anticipated that the digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the ADS within 6 months of completion of the project. Deposition of the physical archive to the County Museum will be made within 12 months of completion of the final report.
- 8.6 It is anticipated that on completion of the project as a minimum a short summary of the results will be provided for publication in West Midlands Archaeology.

9 *Health and Safety*

- 9.1 One Ten Archaeology will conduct all excavation work in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
- 9.2 Notices and fencing will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and high visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 9.3 One Ten Archaeology holds Public and Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

10 *Copyright*

- 10.1 One Ten Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive license to the client and/or commissioning agent in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.
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- 10.3 The author of any report or specialist contribution to any report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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