

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
During Groundworks At Craigard,
Flecknoe, Warwickshire
(NGR SP 4515 2635)**

Jennifer Browning

For Mr. Wright

Planning Application Ref: R02/1045

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:**Date:**

Name:

An Archaeological Watching Brief During Groundworks At Craigard, Flecknoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 4515 2635)

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An Archaeological Watching Brief During Groundworks at Craigard, Flecknoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 4515 2635)

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services undertook a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling in the medieval core of Flecknoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 4515 2635). No archaeological features were revealed, however several pottery sherds dating to the Late Saxon and Medieval periods were recovered. These are thought to be residual. The archive will be held by Warwickshire Museums. Site code FLC02.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during groundworks for a new dwelling at Craigard, Flecknoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 4515 2635 (figures 1 & 2). Rugby Borough Council granted planning permission subject to archaeological conditions. This work follows the *Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief* set by Warwickshire Museums, which requested the presence of an archaeologist during the groundworks because the site is located within the shrunken, medieval settlement of Flecknoe (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 3042). Previous archaeological evaluations and watching briefs in the vicinity of the development have found evidence for Roman and medieval activity (WA 7492, WA 6406 and WA 7401) and earthworks associated with the settlement are still visible in and around the existing village area.

The British Geological Survey map 1:50 000 Series, Sheet 184, indicates that the underlying geology consists of Lower Lias clays.

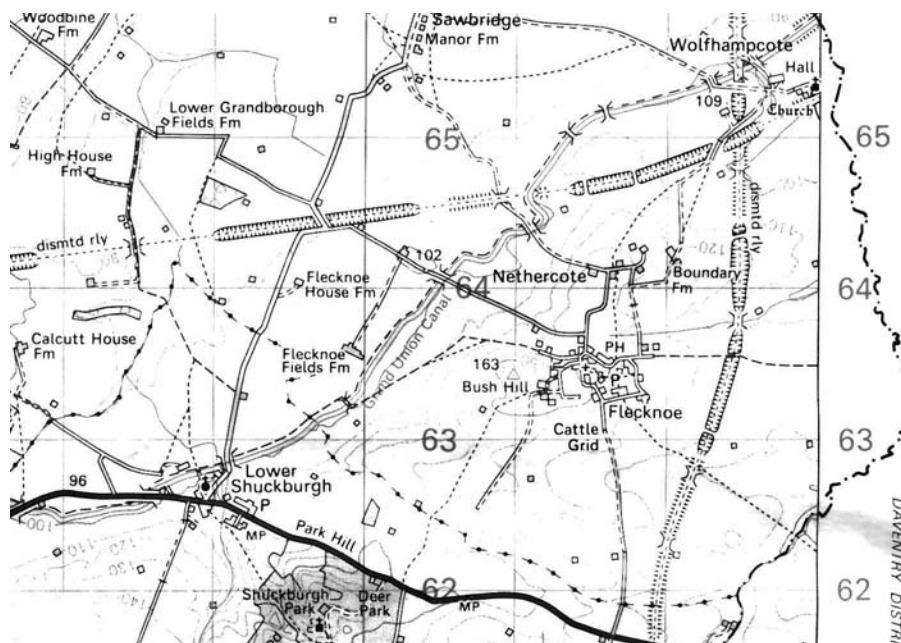


Figure 1: Location Map Scale 1:50000 Sheet 151 1996 © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
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Aims and Methods

The aim of the archaeological work was to observe the groundworks and to record, as appropriate, any archaeological deposits or features encountered. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the *Brief for Archaeological Work* (Warwickshire Museums) and the *Design Specification* (ULAS- Appendix 2).

The site was visited on the 8th and 10th July 2003 when the programme of work consisted of topsoil stripping, reduction and excavation of foundation trenches (see figure 3). The foundation trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical digger with a toothed bucket.

Results

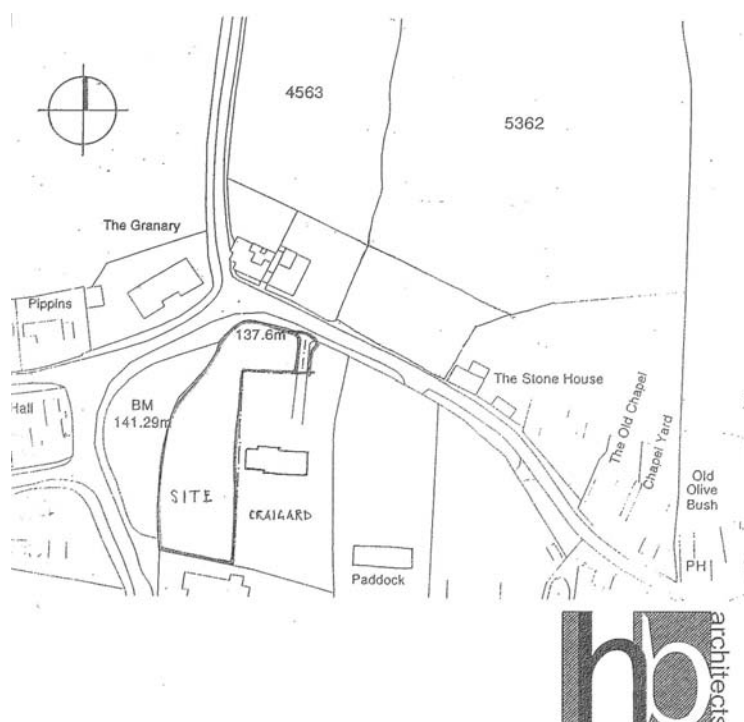


Figure 2: Location of site within Flecknoe. © HB Architects. Not to scale.

At the time of the first visit, all topsoil had been removed. The foundation trenches were excavated through the subsoil, which consisted of densely compacted pale orange-brown clay progressively increasing to pale blue-grey clay. This clay extends across all trenches, to a depth of 1.35-1.5m. By the base of the trenches the mottling of blue/grey clay has increased to c. 80%. Below this is a level bed of ironstone, lying in tightly fitting irregular plates. On the eastern side of the house plot there was a more interesting deposit consisting of blue grey silty clay veined with red iron panning and moderate charcoal flecks. The interface with the subsoil was defined by a fragmentary band of stone and gravel that had probably come to rest there through soil formation processes. There was no obvious cut or edges to the deposit, which seems to extend across most of the eastern part of the site. However, it was not clearly

recognisable in the sections on the western part of the site, and perhaps represents a buried soil, or even a filled feature, possibly a pond. Several sherds of Stamford and Chilvers Coton ware, as well as some modern finds, were recovered during the work. Their approximate locations are recorded on figure 3. The site was disturbed by several modern drains both on a north-south and an east-west alignment.

Conclusion

Several sherds of pottery were recovered during this watching brief, which confirm that there was activity in this part of the village from the late Saxon period onwards, continuing into the medieval period. However, no stratified or discrete deposits were encountered and the evidence suggests that the area was disturbed by a number of modern drains. The deposit identified in the eastern trenches lacked definition and contained both late Saxon pottery and more modern finds such as bone and glass. It is suggested that this may be a backfilled feature such as a pond.

Archive

The archive consists of site notes, the finds as detailed in Appendix 1 and three colour slides and will be held by Warwickshire Museums. The site code FLC02 has been assigned.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank for help and co-operation during this watching brief. Roger Kipling and Jennifer Browning undertook the site visits. The pottery was identified by Deborah Sawday. James Meek and Patrick Clay managed the project.

Jennifer Browning
ULAS Report: 2004-194

**Appendix 1: The pottery and miscellaneous finds from a watching brief at
Flecknoe, Warwickshire**

D. Sawday

Eight sherds of abraded Stamford ware, weighing fifty grams, and one sherd of Chilvers Coton A ware, weighing twenty grams, were recovered during the watching brief. The pottery is evidence of activity in this part of the village during the late Saxon period, and from *circa* 1250. Later material was also present.

Site/Parish: Flecknoe, Warwickshire Accession No/ Doc Ref: Flecknoe/flecknoe1.doc Material: pottery/misc finds Site Type: village core	Submitter: J. Browning Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 29.11.04 Method of Recovery: watching brief
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Find No.*	Material	Fragment nos.	Weight grams	Comments
U/S E side	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	20	Circa 1250+
<1>	Coarse Stamford ware	3	20	Late Saxon, abraded
<1>	Fine Stamford ware	1	4	Late Saxon, abraded
<2>	glass	1		Modern
<2>	bone	3		
<3>	Coarse Stamford ware	3	22	Late Saxon, abraded
<3>	Fine Stamford ware	1	4	Late Saxon, abraded
<3>	Cream ware	1	2	Modern
<3>	Bone	2		

- This number was assigned during the watching brief to identify the location of the find, where possible (see figure 3).

Appendix 2: Design Specification for Archaeological Works

Site: *New House, Craigard, Flecknoe, Warwickshire,*

NGR: *SP 4515 2635*

Planning Application Ref: *R01/0135*

Client: *Sailstore Limited*

Planning Authority: *Rugby Borough Council*

Summary

In view of the known potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains relating to former medieval settlement at Flecknoe, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority requires archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks to ensure that affected deposits are adequately recorded. This specification provides details of the methodologies and standards to be adopted by ULAS on behalf of the client during the course of the work.

1. Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried or standing archaeological remains from the development.

1.2 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

1.3 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

1.4 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance during groundworks for the proposed development.

2. Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives, within the resources available, are

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. Background

- 3.1 The development comprises the construction of a single dwelling at Craigard, Flecknoe, Warwickshire. A Brief has been prepared by the Warwickshire Museum, requiring archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) during groundworks.
- 3.2 The Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record lists a number of archaeological sites close to the proposed development area, the site itself lying within the shrunken, medieval settlement of Flecknoe (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 3042). Earthworks associated with the settlement are still visible in and around the existing village area. Previous archaeological evaluations and watching briefs within the vicinity of the proposed development have found evidence for Roman and medieval activity (WA 7492, WA 6406 and WA 7401).
- 3.4 The groundworks will comprise the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil removal, associated services and access routes. The Warwickshire Museum Brief states that “these would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site”.

4. Methodology

4.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing (as far as is possible), Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

4.2 *Methodology for a comprehensive watching brief*

- 4.2.1 The archaeologist will be present during all groundworks that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area (a 'comprehensive' watching brief). The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works must be agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS in order that archaeological attendance can be arranged to fulfil the conditions on the planning consent.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will observe the excavation of foundation trenches, associated service trenches, access routes and topsoil stripping by the Client's contractors, in order to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by groundworks associated with the development.
- 4.2.3 The archaeologist will cooperate at all times with the contractors to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to the work. However, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will have the power to temporarily halt the works in order to define and record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.2.4 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures (see section 5 below).
- 4.2.5 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, ULAS shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager, the English Heritage Inspector, Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

4.3. *Environmental Sampling*

- 4.3.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following if practicable, within the scope of the project and with the allocated resources:

A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

4.4 **Recording Systems**

- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of any observed archaeological strata and features exposed by the works will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the investigation area in relation to the OS or site grid, as appropriate.
- 4.4.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. Relative levels of archaeological deposits will be taken across the site area.
- 4.4.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.4.6 As a minimum, the watching archaeologist will record the location and depths of any areas of groundworks, including descriptions and depths of all principal strata disturbed, even if no archaeological features are present.

5. **Finds and Samples**

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to Warwickshire Museums for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 The site code FLC02 (FLecknoe, Craigard) will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. **Report and Archive**

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Planning Archaeologist/SMR (4 copies) and Local Planning Authority (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include:-
- Summary
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the watching brief.
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
 - Historical and archaeological background material from the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record and the Warwickshire Records Office.
 - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
 - The location and size of the archive.
- 6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

- 7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to a relevant local journal for publication. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

9. Copyright

- 9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable/Staffing

- 10.1 One member of ULAS staff will be present on the site during groundworks. The duration of groundworks and start date are currently unknown.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within 1 month of the fieldwork.

11. Health and Safety

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.
- A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

- 12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. and others (leading policy no.

62/99094/D). Professional indemnity insurance is with Sun Alliance, £10m cover, policy no. 03A/SA 001 05978. Employer's Liability Insurance is with Eagle Star, cover £10m. Copies of the certificates of insurance are provided.

13. Monitoring arrangements

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Usually at least one weeks notice will be given to the Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological works in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Bibliography

- MAP 2, The management of archaeological projects 2nd edition English Heritage 1991
- MGC 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)
- RFG/FRG 1993, Guidelines for the preparation of site archives (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)
- SMA 1993, Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

JEM

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FIGURES

Figure 1 Location plan

Figure 2 Building proposals

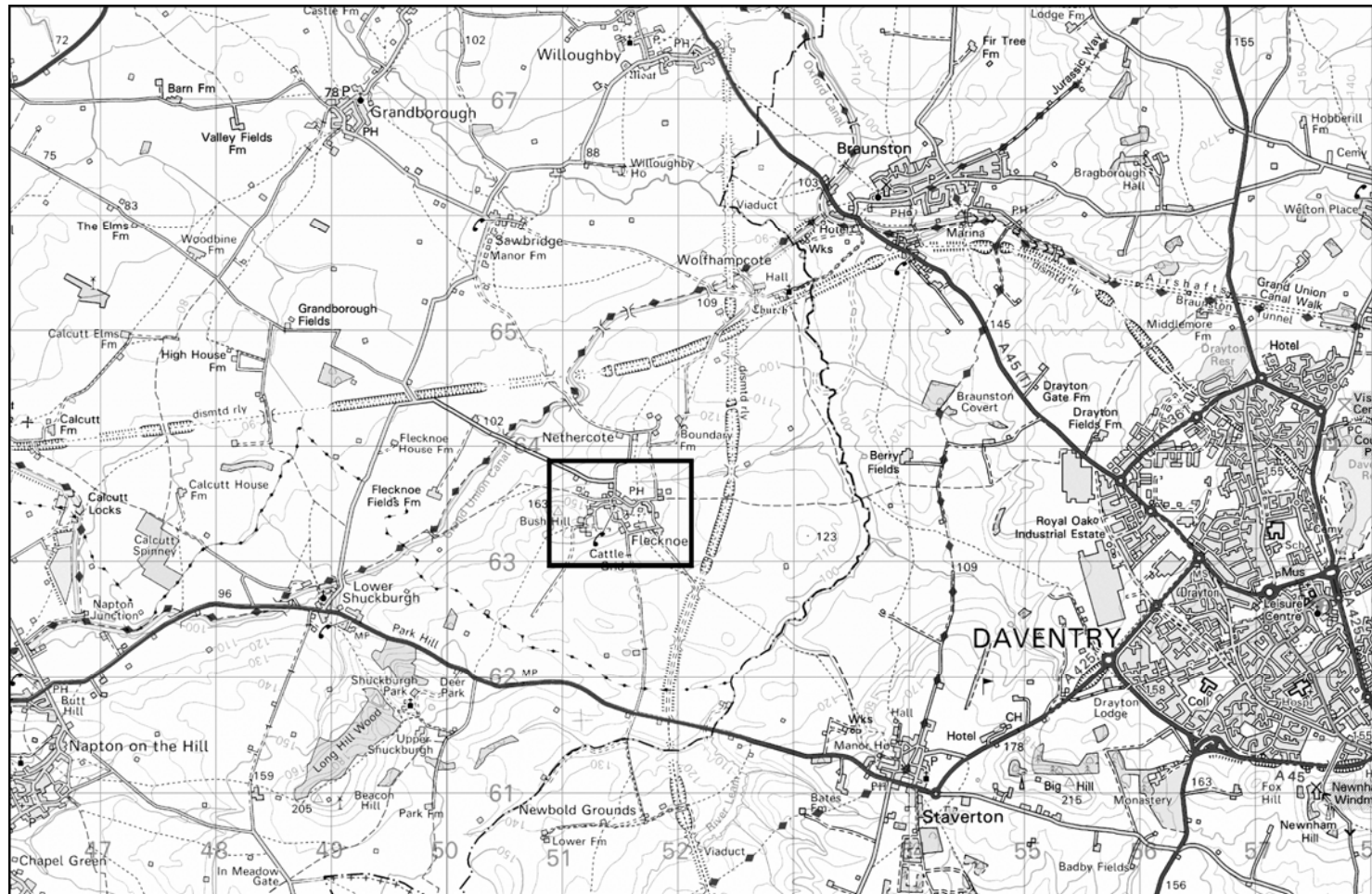


Figure 1: Location Plan

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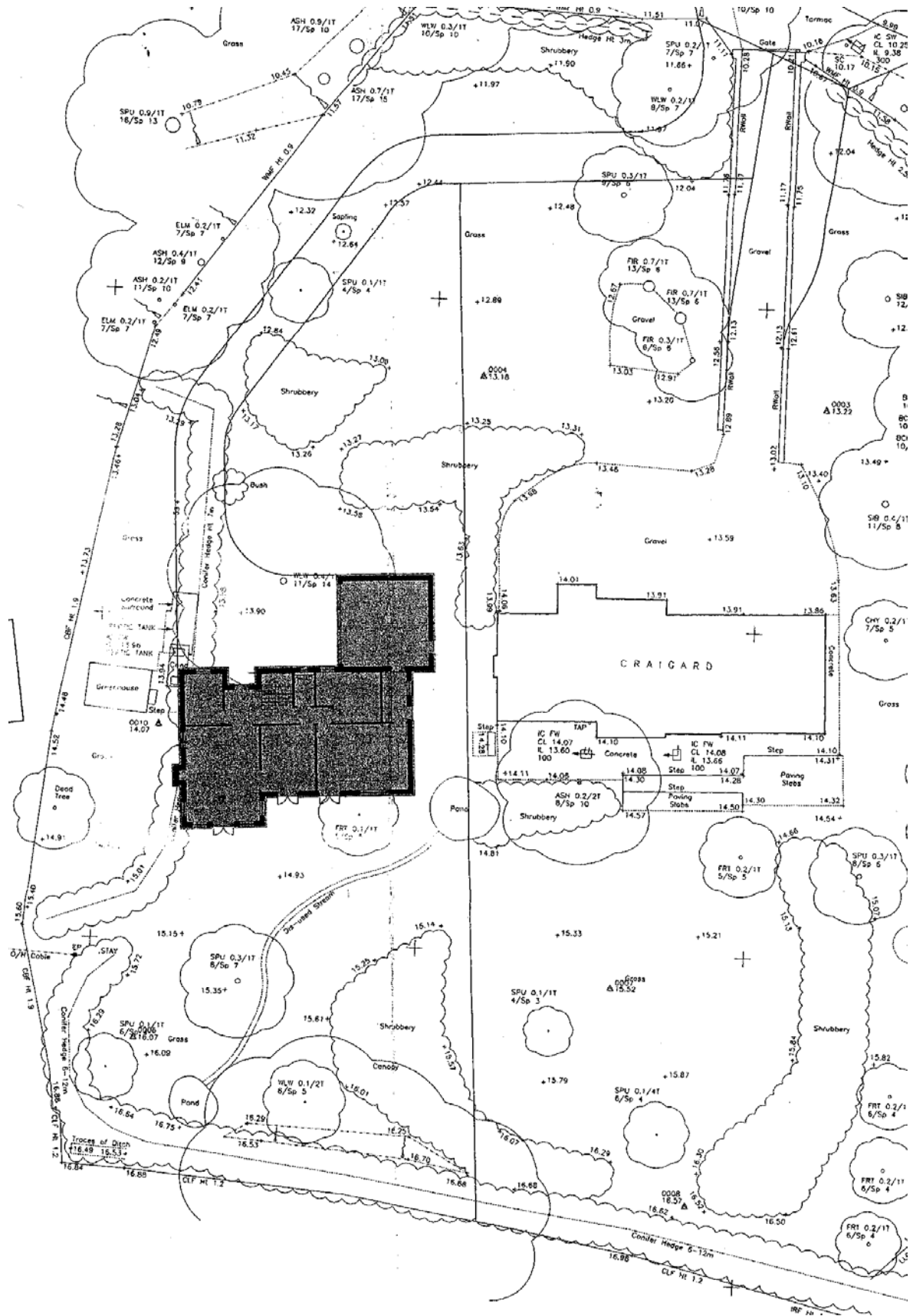


Figure 2: Building proposals