



**A Watching Brief  
Graycar Business Park,  
Walton Lane, Barton-under-Needwood  
Staffordshire**

**NGR: SK 2085 1885**

**By Tim Higgins**



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**Cover Page**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Graycar Business Park, Walton Lane,  
Barton-under-Needwood  
Staffordshire  
NGR: SK 2085 1885  
Tim Higgins**

**For: L H Group Holdings Ltd**

Checked by

Signed:



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### Commented [GS3]: How to Create a Contents page.

Go to the Contents page.  
Choose **Insert, Reference, Index and Tables**.  
Choose the **Table of Contents** tab. Select the level of headings you want to include (**Show levels**), whether you want page numbers, a tab leader (.....) and right aligning page numbers. Click ok and the Contents should appear. If you have text that shouldn't be it's because it's been given a heading style instead of Normal or vice versa if there's missing headings.

Details and a tutorial on this and the use of Captions to number and list tables, figures, charts and Appendices are available on the Computer Centres online tutorial for Word 2003 advanced <http://www.le.ac.uk/its/info/starting1.html#8>

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Graycar Business Park, Walton Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.

Tim Higgins

### Summary

*An Archaeological watching brief during ground-works on land at Graycar Business Park, Walton Lane Barton turn, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of LH Group Holdings Ltd. The groundwork consisted of the excavation of a new service trench. Attendance at the site occurred from the 1 April 2015.*

*The watching brief revealed only narrow linear feature during the inspection of the trench.*

### 1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an industrial storage unit on land at Graycar Business Park, Walton Lane, Barton Turn, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire (NGR SK 2085 1885). A planning application had been approved with conditions for the erection of an industrial unit with associated parking and landscaping. In view of the potential impact of the development on buried remains this was undertaken as a mitigation strategy following the recommendations of Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (SCC HET) as archaeological advisors to ESBC subject to an archaeological watching brief.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012). All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

**Commented [GS4]:** There are three standard sections in a report:

Section 1 . Front Page  
Section 2 . Contents Page  
Section 3 . Rest of the report.

The contents page and rest of the report have the same (linked header). Click on **View, Header and Footer** and select [Sitename] in the header and overtype with the right information.

Switch to the footer. This contains the name of the document you're working on and the Accession No. Click on and change the [AccNo] in Sections 2 and 3. The Document Name should automatically update to the current document name. If it doesn't right click on it and choose update field. Close the header and footer.

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Headings and styles can be used to create a uniform report and to make all reports look the same. Using headings also means that you can create Contents pages easily.

There are five heading styles

**TITLE 1 (TNR 14, B, Centred)**

**TITLE 2 (TNR 12 B, Centred)**

**Heading 1 (TNR 12, Bold)**

**Heading 2 (TNR 12 B,I)**

**Heading 3 (TNR 12, I)**

Title and Title 2 are for the front page and the Main Report Title.

They can also be used for Appendix Titles – alternatively you can use the Headings or a separate Caption.

The Headings are used to create a formal style pattern and to create a table of contents with page numbers. To apply a style highlight the heading text and select the relevant Heading format from the style box on the left side.

NB Do not use the bold, italic or justification buttons to create a heading!

The headings can be reapplied at any time by highlighting the text and selecting Heading 1, 2 and 3.

The main body text of the report should use the 'Normal' style.

*Be aware that when you copy text from elsewhere it brings the original style with it!*

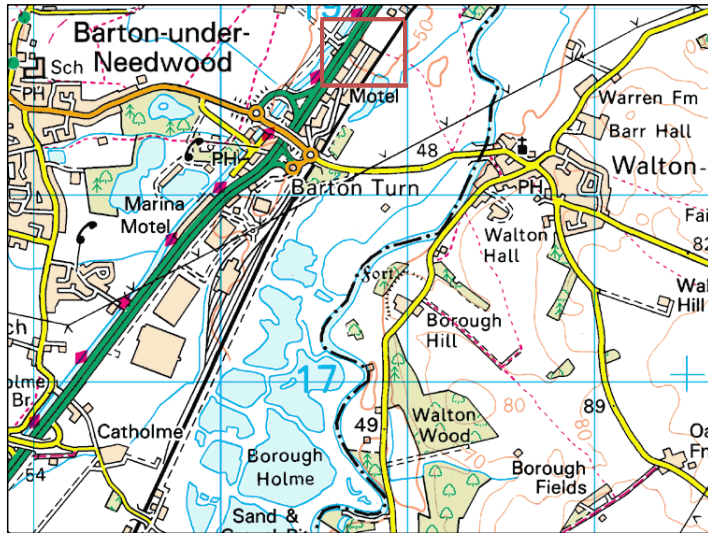


Figure 1 Location Plan

Reproduced from the Explorer 141 Kettering, Corby & surrounding area 1:20 000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

## 2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located to the North East of the Graycar Business Park site adjacent to its boundary with the A38. The Graycar Business Park site is bounded to the south by industrial units, to the west by A38, and to the east by the main line railway (Figure 1).

The site of the proposed development lies within the broad, flat valley of the River Trent and underlying natural is river gravels.

## 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

A considerable amount of archaeological work has been undertaken in the Staffordshire portion of the River Trent valley generally associated with gravel extraction. This work has recovered evidence for an extensive Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial landscape, extensive Iron Age and Romano-British field systems and relatively abundant evidence for Early Medieval occupation.

A Scheduled Monument lies to the east of the current scheme, flanking the railway line, and was designated for the remains of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery which was evaluated in 1995-6 in advance of the construction of the current business park.

The site itself (including the Scheduled area) was evaluated in advance of the construction of the Graycar Business Park (1995-6). An assessment of aerial photographic evidence in advance of fieldworks suggested the presence of three small circular earthworks (possibly representing a linear barrow cemetery) and a cursus (which was later determined to be a pre glacial river

channel). The evaluation recovered evidence for two ring ditches which had been truncated by subsequent ploughing of the area. The cemetery was dated to the late Bronze Age (Figure 2).

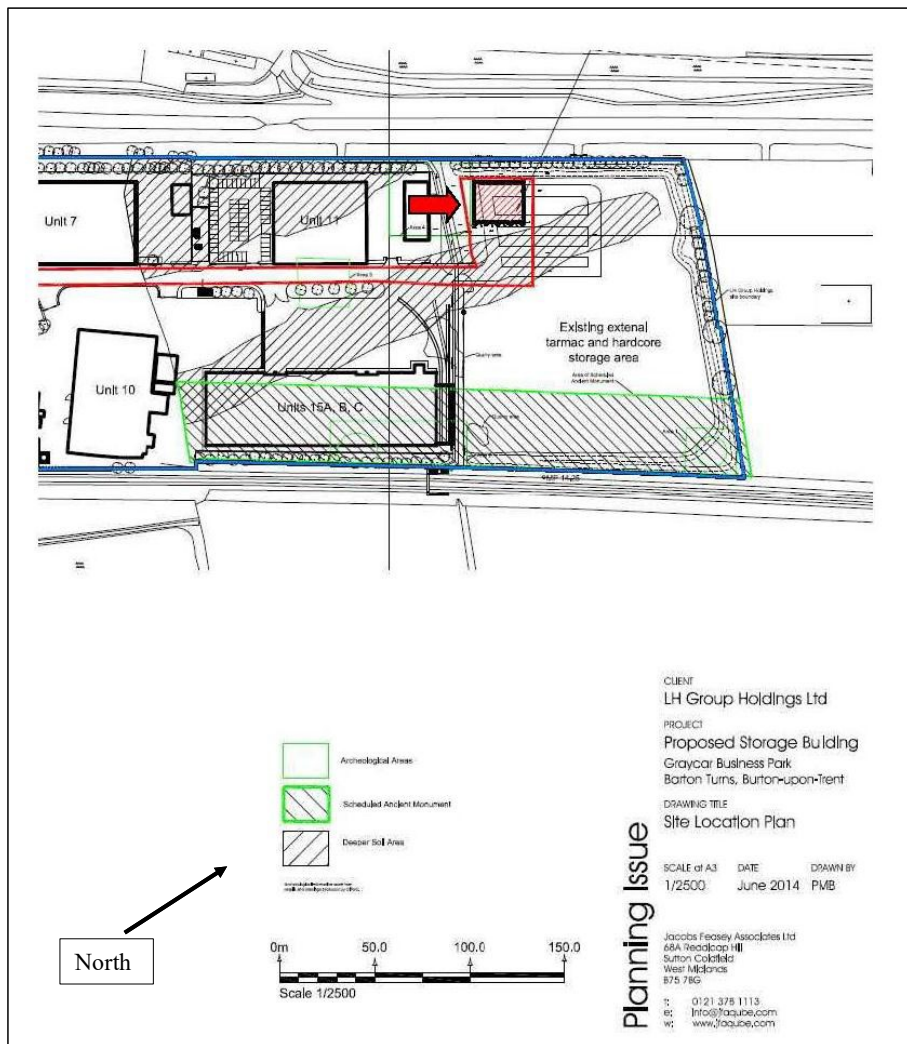


Figure 2 Location plan of the new building (plan supplied by client)

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

The programme of archaeological investigation has the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

*The Bronze Age Period (Willis 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)*

RA 1 The study of local variation in Neolithic – Bronze Age funerary practices and associated ritual activity both nationally and in the East Midlands.

RA 2 The study of location change in prehistoric land use and settlement in the East Midlands.

RA 6 Settlement and land use during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age (EH 1997 PC2; P6)

The main aim objectives of the archaeological programme will be:

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 groundworks.

To produce an archive and report of any results.

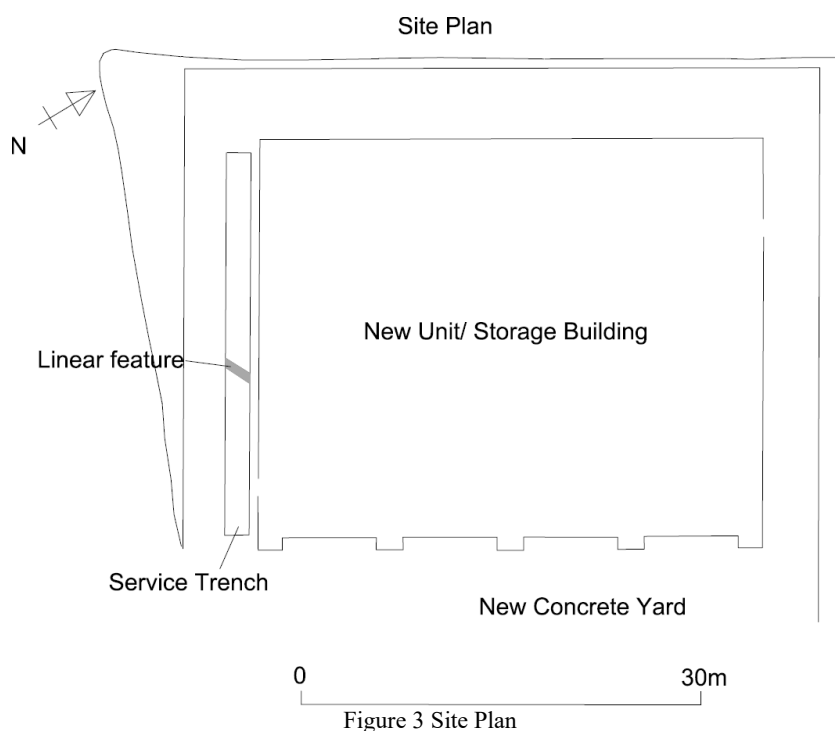
#### **5. Methodology**

Prior to excavation of the service trench, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The trenches were machine excavated. The modern overburden and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the required depth was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning.

The work followed the approved design specification (Clay 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2013).

## 6. Results



The groundworks, undertaken in April 2015 involved the excavation of a new service trench on the south side of the new industrial unit (Figure 3). The machine used for the ground works was a mini 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.30m wide bladed bucket. A visual inspection was conducted across the newly excavated trench that measured 30m long. The natural substratum consisted of pale yellow and dark orange sand mixed with rounded pebbles found at depth of 1.00m below the present ground surface.

The only archaeological evidence revealed during the machine excavation appeared to be a possible truncated narrow linear feature or ditch running east to west across the trench (Figure 2). The feature measured 0.50m wide, 0.40m deep and had steep sloping sides and rounded base. The fill comprised dark brown sandy silt mixed with the occasional rounded pebble. No dating evidence was recovered and no other archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during this inspection of the site.

Sealing the feature was a layer 0.20m thick that comprised dark yellowish brown clay, and sand mixed with modern concrete and brick rubble. Overlying was a layer of concrete rubble that measured 0.40m deep. Above the concrete rubble was a mixed construction deposit, which comprised brick and concrete fragments mixed with reddish brown sand and measured 0.40m deep.





Figure 4 New service trench looking west



Figure 5 Excavation of the new service trench looking east



Figure 6 Excavated trench looking northwest

## 7. Conclusion

The watching brief only revealed evidence of a narrow linear feature. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, although it could be pre modern in date. No other archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during this inspection of the site.

## 8. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds* (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The content of the paper archive consists of:

1 Unbound A4 copy of this report

1 A4 watching brief sheet

1 A4 Photo record sheet

A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos

A record of the project will be submitted to the Oasis project. Oasis is an online index to grey literature reports.

## 9. Publication

The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## 10. 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)

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

## 11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author while Dr Patrick Clay managed the project.

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17/01/2018

## Appendix 1 OASIS

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	<b>Graycar Business Park, Walton Lane Barton turn, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire</b>
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Industrial
Development Type	Industrial Units
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 2085 1985
Start/end dates of field work	1/04/2015
Archive Recipient	Staffordshire County Council
<b>Study Area *</b>	1880m sq

\* Particularly important as this information cannot be found elsewhere



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