

## An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land to the Rear of the Stables, Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester (NGR 46214 31010)

Dr. Roger Kipling

### Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March 2005 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to a planning application for the construction of a Vodafone mast and compound (Planning Application P/04/0720/2) at land to the rear of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester. No evidence of archaeological deposits, features or finds was encountered, with the possible exception of heavily disturbed medieval ridge and furrow. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team under the accession number X.A149.2005.*

### 1: Introduction

1.1: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of the planning conditions (Planning Application P/04/0720/2) connected with construction of a Vodafone mast and compound at land to the rear of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester. Work was carried out on the recommendation of the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

1.2: The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology consists of Boulder Clay and associated sand and gravel. The site lies at a height of approximately 70m OD.

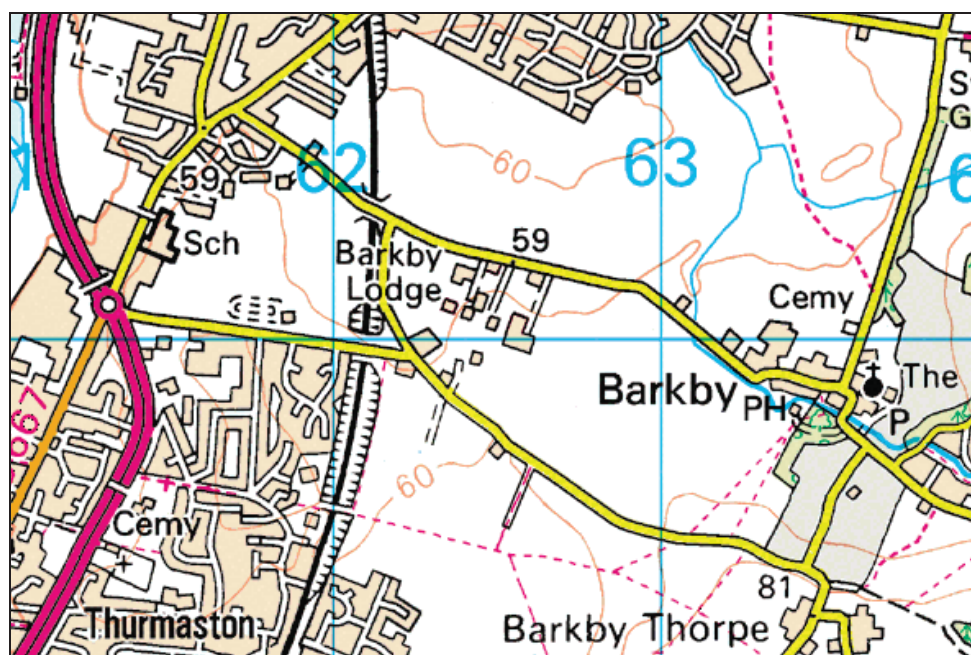


Figure 1: General area of watching brief

## **2: Aims and Methods**

2.1: The aim of the watching brief was to ascertain whether any archaeological deposits were present within the area of development, via the monitoring of groundworks, following the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work at Land to the Rear of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston, Leicester (17.1.2005)*. All work was in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhering to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

2.2: The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 by Dr. Roger Kipling in order to monitor the machine excavation of footings for a mobile phone mast and a power cable trench using a JCB excavator equipped with a toothed 0.4m ditching bucket. Full archaeological supervision was undertaken throughout this work in order to monitor for evidence of archaeological deposits or remains.

## **3: Results**

3.1: Work initially involved the machine excavation of a box foundation trench measuring 3.5m x 3.5m and 1.20m deep in the southeast corner of the paddock to the rear of stables off Barkby Thorpe Lane. A 0.35m-deep accumulation of mid-brown clay silt loam plough soil was revealed overlying an extremely compact, plastic mid orange-brown natural clay.

3.2: Secondly, a cable trench was cut, running parallel to and 1m from the hedge line, extending from the box for c.120m to the northeast and measuring 0.4m wide and 1.0m deep. A 0.3m depth of plough soil overlay the same natural clay observed in the first trench. The narrowness of the trench made observation of stratigraphy problematic. However, 1.2m-wide possible discrepancies in the composition of the plough soil along the length of the trench at c.2.5m wide intervals suggest the presence of heavily disturbed medieval ridge and furrow.

3.3: With the exception of the possible plough furrows, neither trench produced archaeological deposits or features.

## **4: Conclusions**

The undertaking of an archaeological watching brief at Barkby Thorpe Lane revealed an absence of archaeological features in both the box and cable trenches. However, the possible presence of disturbed ridge and furrow features is suggestive of medieval cultivation.

## **5: Archive**

The site archive, (X.A149.2005), consisting of paper records will be housed with the County Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.

## **6: Publication**

A version of the summary (see above) will appear in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## **7: Acknowledgements**

Dr. Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the watching brief on behalf of the Eve Group Ltd. The project was managed by Mr. Richard Buckley.





Plate 1: General view south along cable trench towards mast base



Plate 2: General view north from mast base footings trench along the cable trench

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Design Specification for Archaeological Work**

*Land To The Rear Of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe lane,  
Thurmaston, Leicester  
NGR SK 46214 31010*

*Planning Application: P/04/0720/2*

*For: Eve Group Ltd*

#### ***1 Definition and scope of the specification***

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for archaeological attendance (watching brief), as required by the Planning Authority, of any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for the construction of a Vodophone mast and compound Planning Application: P/04/0720/2 for the Eve group Ltd. It addresses requirements detailed in the *Brief for archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation at land to the rear of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe lane, Thurmaston, Leicester* (17.1.2005 hereinafter 'Brief') from Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological adviser to the planning authority.

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCCHS).

#### ***2 Background***

##### *2.1 Requirement for archaeological work*

2.1.1 The Brief requires a programme of archaeological work to comprise a soil strip down to proposed formation level under archaeological control and supervision of the footprint of the proposed Vodophone mast compound. Any archaeological features exposed are to be recorded and sample excavated. The work constitutes a scheme of archaeological investigation to fulfil the planning conditions placed on the work by Charnwood Borough Council following recommendations from Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological adviser to the planning authority.

##### *2.2 Archaeological potential*

2.2.1 The archaeological potential has not been specified in the Brief

#### ***3 Aims***

##### *3.1 Watching brief*

3.1.2. Through archaeological control and supervision of the topsoil strip by the client's contractor :

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

#### **4 Methods**

##### 4.1 *Watching brief*

4.1.1 The project will involve the control and supervision of groundworks on site by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. The archaeologist will control and supervise the topsoil removal by mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket down to the proposed formation. Where archaeological deposits are identified above formation, the archaeologist will have the power to halt the works in order to define areas of archaeological interest. Subsequently, such deposits will be recorded and sample excavated to a level appropriate to their significance, using additional personnel if necessary.

4.1.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.1.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.1.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.1.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.1.6 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The contractor, Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment team and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.1.7 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of



Historic and Natural Environment team, Leicestershire County Council, and Charnwood Borough Council.

4.1.8 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the watching brief there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken. On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services and the planning authority. If the archaeological remains are identified to be of significance additional contingent archaeological works will be required.

## **5 Recording Systems**

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 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 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies 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.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **6 Report and Archive**

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. 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.

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 be presented to Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication**

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## **8 Timetable and Staffing**

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence on 10 March 2005 with one archaeologist in attendance.

## **9 Health and Safety**

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Safety Manual (2001) as its Health and Safety Manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. It also follows the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. An initial risks assessment is included in the appendix. This will be revised as appropriate following the commencement of fieldwork.

## **10 Insurance**

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with Gerling Insurance Services Policy No. 62/99094/D, Risk Reference LT 35101 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Sun Alliance Insurance Policy No. 03A/5A 001 05978, Risk Reference LT 27229.

## **11. Bibliography**

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

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

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02.10.2006

## **Appendix**

### **Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement**

*Land To The Rear Of The Stables, Barkby Thorpe lane, Thurmaston, Leicester*

*Planning Application: P/04/0720/2*

*For the Eve Group Ltd*

#### *1 Nature of the work*

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.  
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.  
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.  
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.  
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.  
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .

1.5 All work will adhere to the contractors' health and safety policy.



## **2 Risks Assessment**

### *2.1 Working within a building site*

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

### *2.2 Working with plant.*

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

### *2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vialls disease or similar.

### *2.4 Working with chemicals.*

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

### *2.5 Other risks*

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

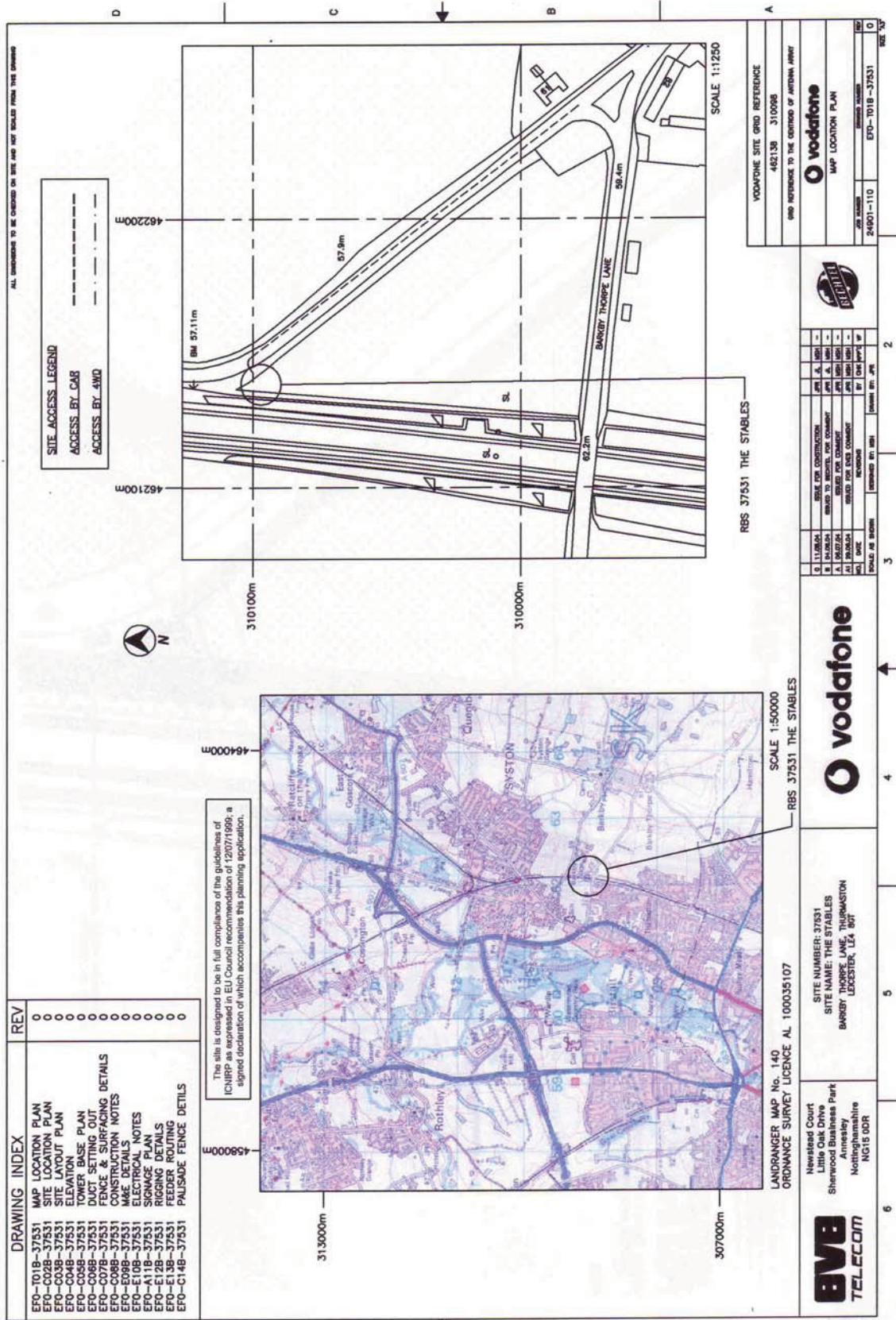
2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Richard Buckley

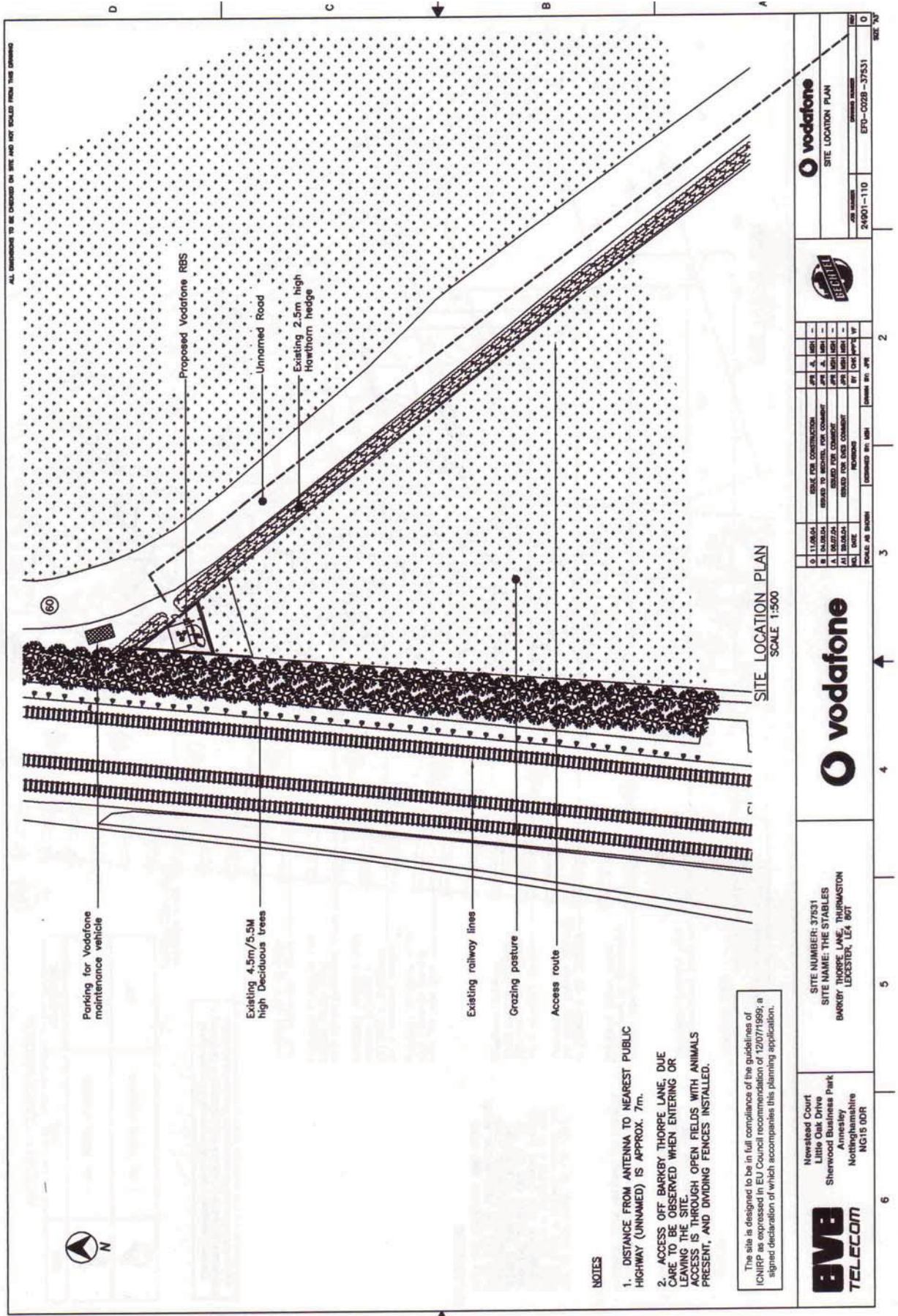
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Figures

1. Site location
2. Site location







**NOTES**

1. DISTANCE FROM ANTENNA TO NEAREST PUBLIC HIGHWAY (UNNAMED) IS APPROX. 7m.
2. ACCESS OFF BARKBY THORPE LANE. DUE CARE TO BE OBSERVED WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING THE SITE. ACCESS IS THROUGH OPEN FIELDS WITH ANIMALS PRESENT, AND DIVIDING FENCES INSTALLED.

The site is designed to be in full compliance of the guidelines of ICNIRP as expressed in EU Council recommendation of 12/07/1999; a signed declaration of which accompanies this planning application.



Newstead Court  
Little Oak Drive  
Sherwood Business Park  
Annesley  
Nottinghamshire  
NG15 0QR

SITE NUMBER: 37531  
SITE NAME: THE STABLES  
BARKBY THORPE LANE, THURMASTON  
LEICESTER, LE4 9DT



**vodafone**  
SITE LOCATION PLAN  
JOB NUMBER: 24901-110  
JOB NUMBER: EFU-0029-37531

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