An Archaeological Evaluation

On Land to the east of Loughborough Road,

Asfordby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 701 192

David Parker

For: Jelson Ltd

Checked by

Signed:  ..**Date**: 10.11.2008

Name: Vicki Score

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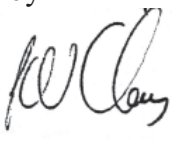
Signed:  **Date**: 10.11.2008

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ULAS Report Number 2008-156

XA124.2008

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An Archaeological Evaluation at land west of Loughborough Road, Asfordby, Leicestershire (SK 701 192)

David Parker

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at land to the west of Loughborough Road, Asfordby, Leicestershire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in advance of housing development. Nine trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential. Two areas of significant archaeological potential were identified including a colluvial deposit associated with an in situ Mesolithic flint scatter and an area of cut features associated with Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery. Other features include post-holes, gullies pits and tree throw pits. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Services under the accession number X.A124.2008.

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted by Melton Borough District Council for a development of 66 houses on land to the north-east of Loughborough Road, Asfordby, Leicestershire (P.A 2006/1565/03). As a condition of the permission a programme of archaeological investigation has been formulated by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council as advisor to the planning authority.

The proposed development has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Hunt 2007) which concluded that although the site is not within the historic settlement core of the village, it does have some archaeological potential due to the proximity of prehistoric and Roman finds and the Saxon origins of the village. As a part of the programme of archaeological investigation an evaluation by trial trenching was required within the area of the proposed development, following a detailed magnetometry survey (Smalley 2007).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located on the north-west edge of Asfordby south of the A6006 on the north-east side of Loughborough Road and adjacent to a Primary School and Community Centre (SK 701 192). It covers an area of *c*. 1.8 ha. and currently comprises a single large grassed field.

The site lies on glacial Till (known also as Boulder Clay) and lies at a height of *c*. 68m O.D. rising up to 70m to the north-east.

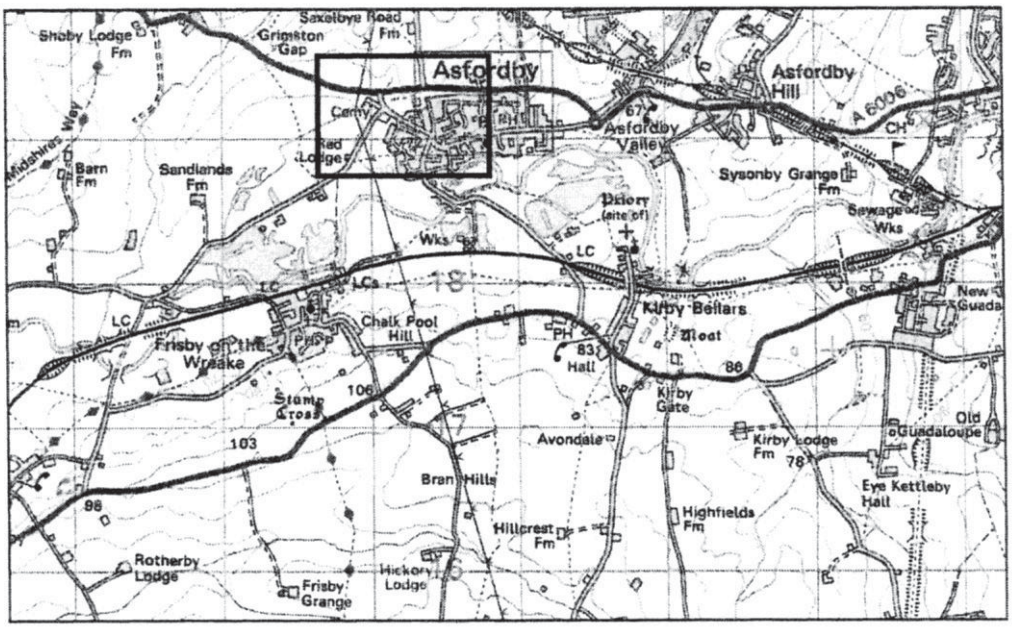

Fig 1 Location plan

3. Historical and Archaeological Background (from Hunt 2007)

The site lies at the periphery of the modern village of Asfordby. The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows a wide range of archaeological finds from the vicinity of the application area from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. Map evidence indicates that the field has been under pasture for several hundred years and therefore any archaeological remains could be well preserved.

Geophysical survey was undertaken on the site in 2007 (Smalley 2007). This indicated the presence of medieval strip field systems (ridge and furrow) aligned east-west and other linear and discrete anomalies interpreted as pertaining to land drainage. However there were some anomalies suggesting cut features of possible archaeological origin (Fig. 2)

Fig 2: Interpretive plot of geophysical data (from Smalley 2007) with proposed trench locations

4. Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the evaluation were:

- 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 quarry extension.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

5. Methodology

The *Specification* agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicesterhsire County Council proposed the excavation of eight trenches, 45m x 1.6m within the development area in order to target the geophysical anomalies highlighted by the magnetometry survey. A ninth trench was added to target an area of higher archaeological potential.

The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.2m.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits were observed. If archaeological remains were identified, they were to be planned to scale and recorded. Limited excavation would also be undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains.

The trenches were located using a Leica EDM and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.11 design software.

All the work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).

6. Results

A total of nine trenches was excavated within the proposed development area (fig.3). The trenches were initially placed to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Figure 2). However upon excavation of the first three trenches it became clear that these anomalies were not of archaeological origin or had located the position of field drains. The other trenches were placed to provide a sample of the remainder of the field with the exception of trench nine. Trench nine targeted the continuation of feature 6 in trench two. A total of 403 linear metres of trenching was undertaken (equalling 644.8m²) providing a *c*. 4% sample .

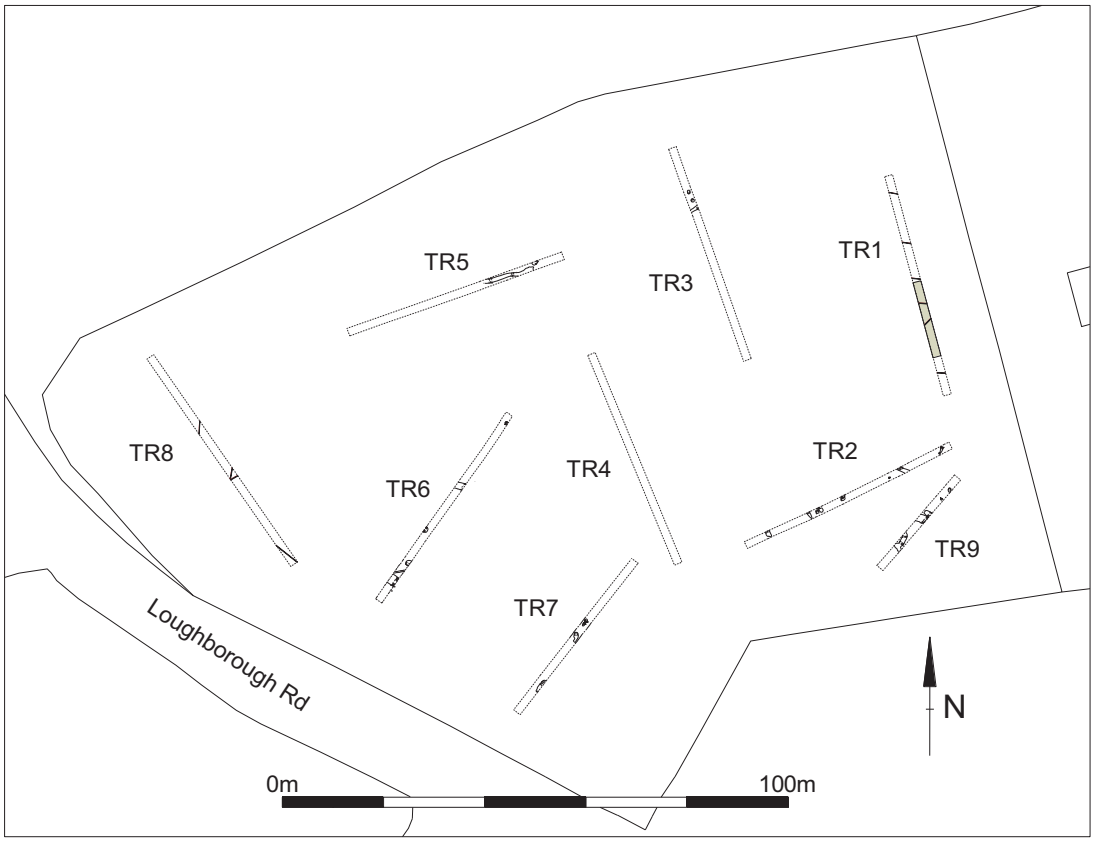

Fig 3. Trench location plan

Trenches 1-9

Unless otherwise stated machining of trenches in the field removed a layer of dark brown clayey silt topsoil to a depth varying between 190mm and 450mm. Yellow brown subsoil was located directly beneath the topsoil. The subsoil overlay the natural substratum of boulder clay/glacial till. Archaeological deposits where present were below the subsoil and cut into the natural glacial till substratum.

Trench 1

Length: 45m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.62m (min) 0.98m (max)
Orientation: North-north-west to south-south-east

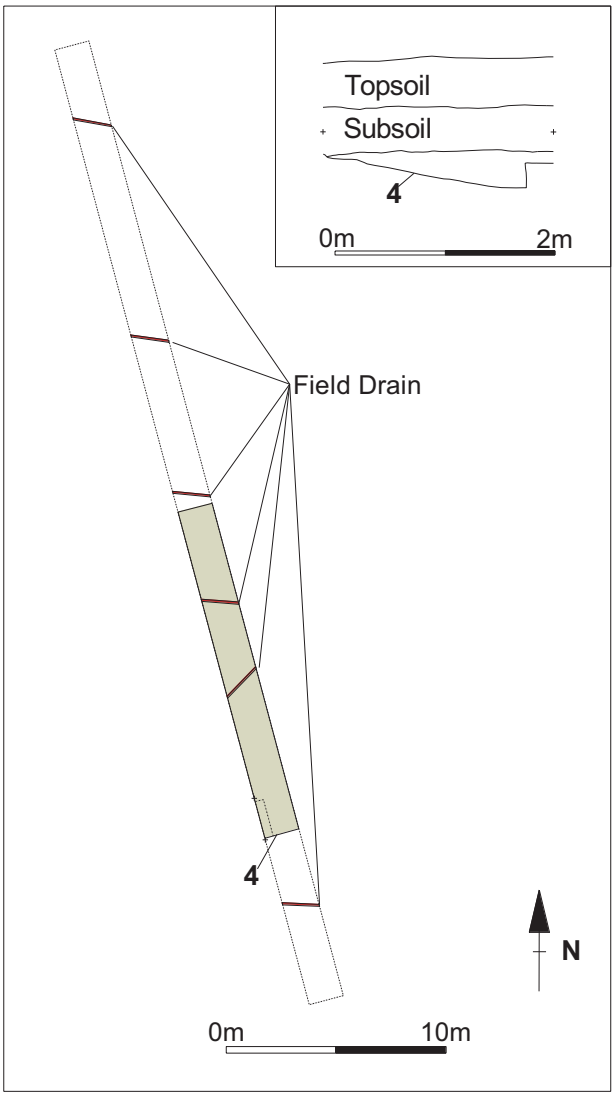

Fig 4. Plan of Trench 1 with NNW-SSE section through [**4]**

The trench contained six linear features that were identified as field drains. These consisted of a line of bricks with a 'u' shaped hollow serving as a channel. Towards the southern end of the trench a large feature ([4] fig. 3), 15.36m long at least 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep, was observed beneath the subsoil. A small slot was excavated at the southern end of the feature revealing a fill of a mid-grey brown clayey silt with a small amount of charcoal. The cut was found to be long and shallow with sloping sides. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

Trench 2

Length: 45m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.50m (min) 0.74m (max),
Orientation: North-east to south-west

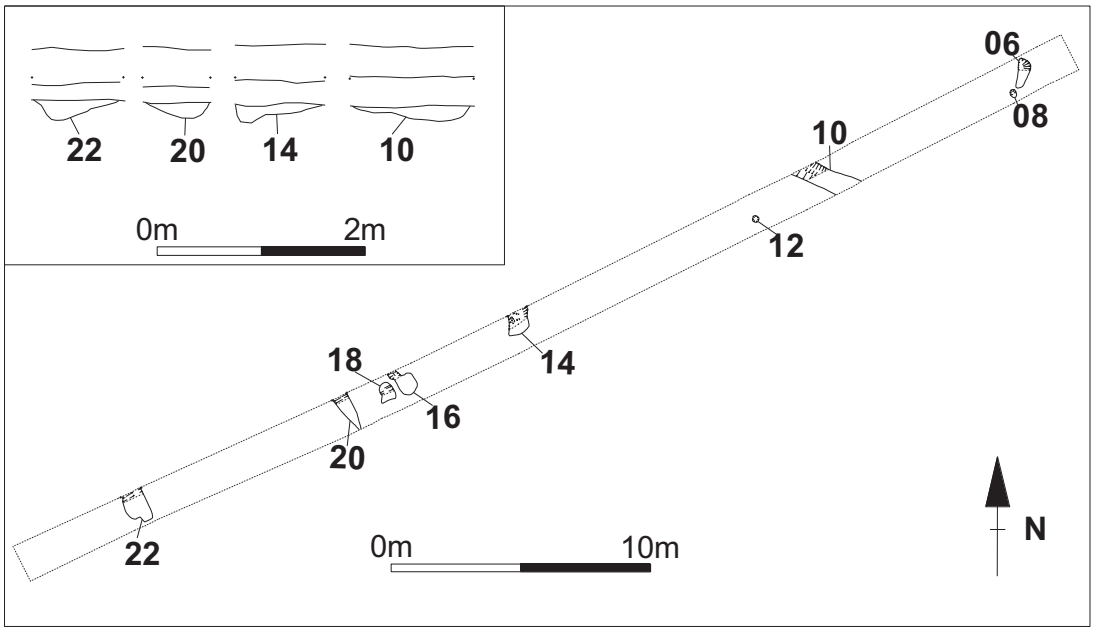

Fig 5. Plan of trench 2 with SW-NE sections of [22], [20], [14] and [10].

Nine features were investigated in this trench all of which contained an orange brown sandy silt (Fig.5). Cut 6 is an irregular feature 0.86m long, 0.40m wide and a depth of 0.24m (Figs 5-7). A small piece of Beaker pottery was recovered from this feature (below p. 20). Cuts 8 and 12 are interpreted as post-holes, both *c*.0.2m wide with [8] 0.12m deep and [12] 0.06m deep. Cut 10 was a linear feature aligned east-west, and was *c*.0.8m wide with a depth of 0.18m. Cuts 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 were all irregular features containing the same grey brown sandy silt. The edges and bases of all these features were so irregular that they are likely to be tree throw pits or other natural features. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

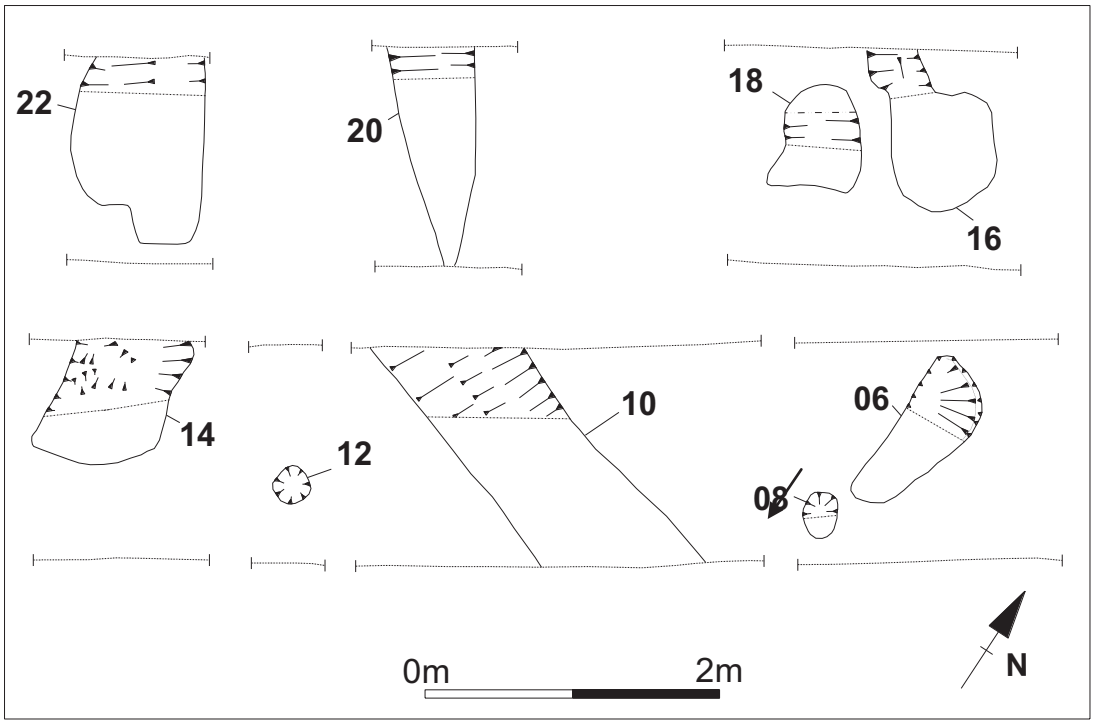

Fig 6. Detail of features in trench 2.

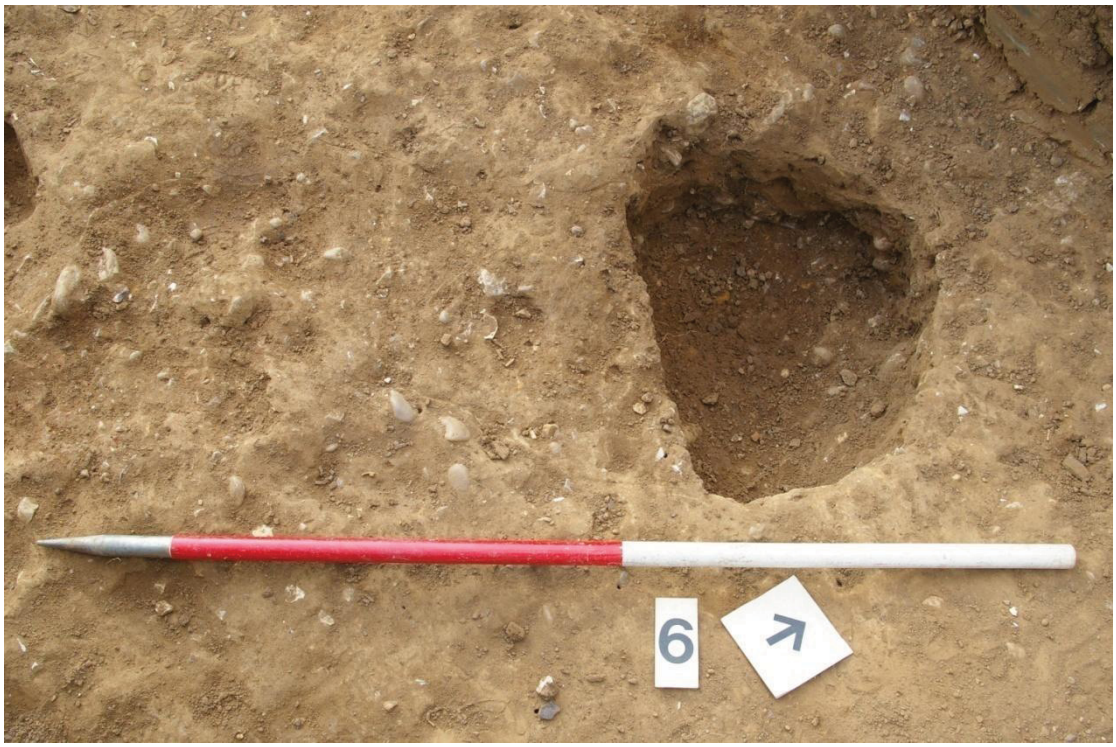

Fig.7 Detail of feature **6**

Trench 3

Length: 45m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.30m (min) 0.68m (max)
Orientation: North-west to south-east

Eight features were observed within this trench, five of which were field drains. Of the remaining features two, [34] and [36], are pits and [38] appeared to be a small gully (Figs 8-9). The fills of all of the features within this trench consisted of a loose grey brown sandy silt. Cut 34 measured 0.68m north-south by 0.46m east-west with a depth of 0.2m. Cut 36 was a circular feature measuring 0.66m across with a depth of 0.12m. Gulley 38 ran in a north-east to south-west direction, was 0.8m across with a minimum length of 1.6m. This feature was very shallow (0.05m deep) and can be assumed to have been heavily truncated.

No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

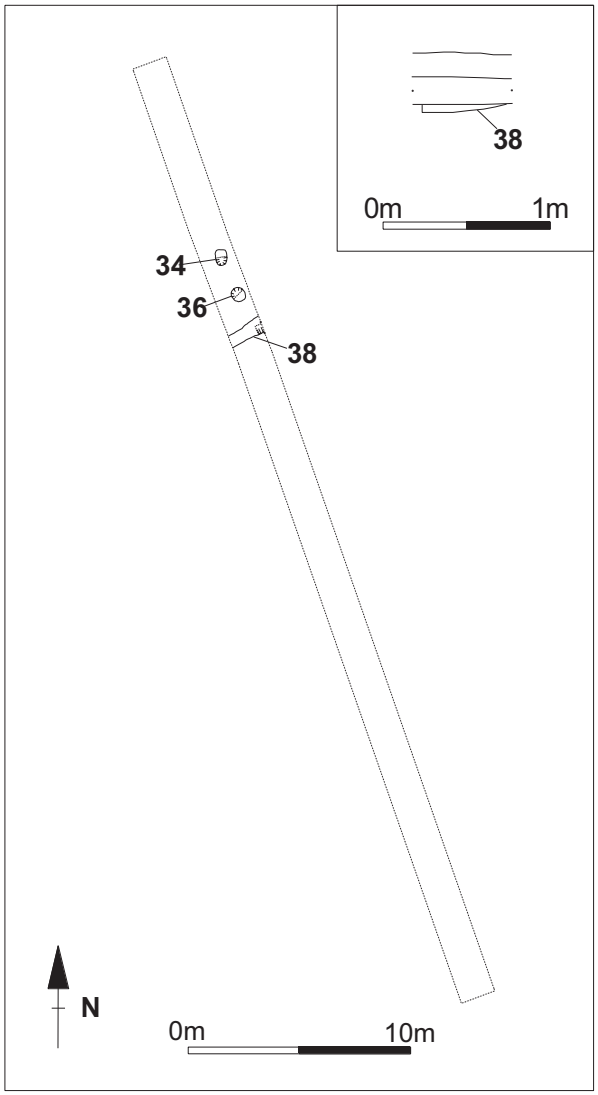

Fig 8. Plan of Trench 3 with NNW-SSE section through [38]

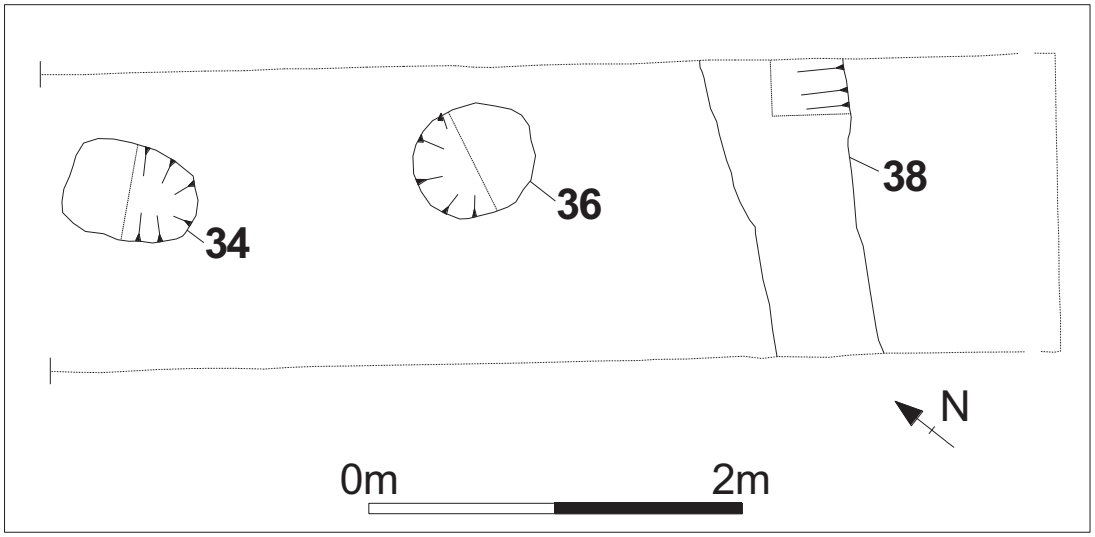

Fig. 9. Detail of features in Trench 3

Trench 4

Length: 45m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.40m (min) 0.60m (max)
Orientation: North-east to south-west

This trench was located towards the centre of the field (Fig 3), and was stripped to the underlying natural substratum at a depth varying between 0.4m and 0.6m. No archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

Trench 5

Length: 45m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.35m (min) 0.51m (max)
Orientation: East-West

Two features were observed within this trench (Figs. 10-11). Cut 46 was an irregular pit, measuring 0.72m (north-south), 1.3m (east-west) by 1.8m deep, with a fill consisting of a dark grey brown sandy silt. Notably this fill contained a high proportion of pebbles but no artefacts. Feature 48 was a large irregular roughly linear feature measuring 9.6m E-W, 0.9m N-S and 0.05m and containing a light brown sandy silt fill. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

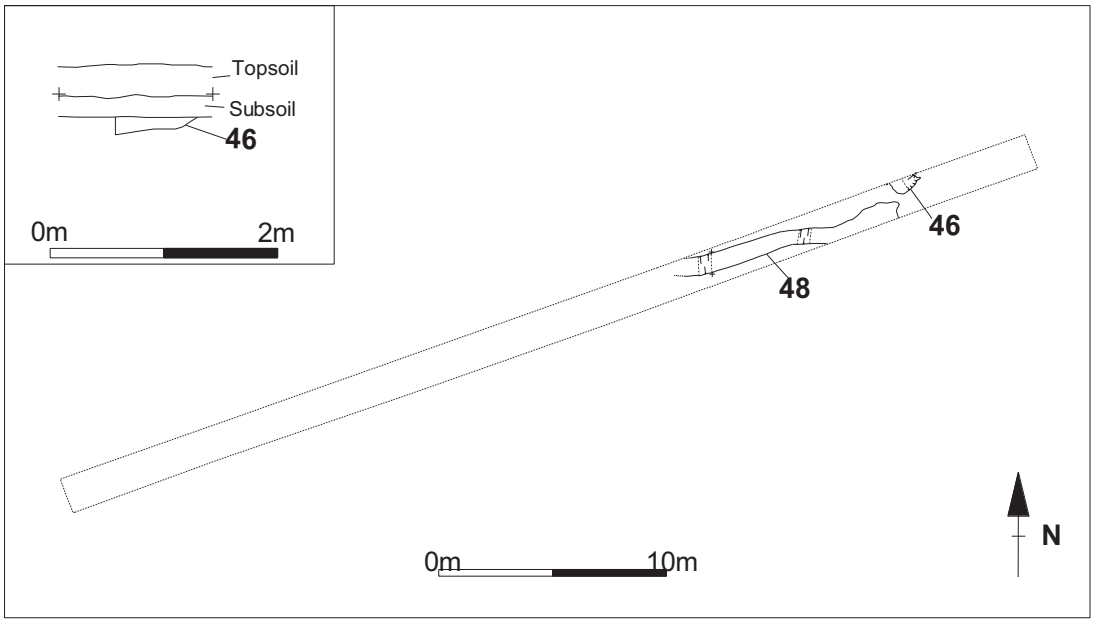

Fig 10. Plan of Trench 5 with SW-NE section of [46]

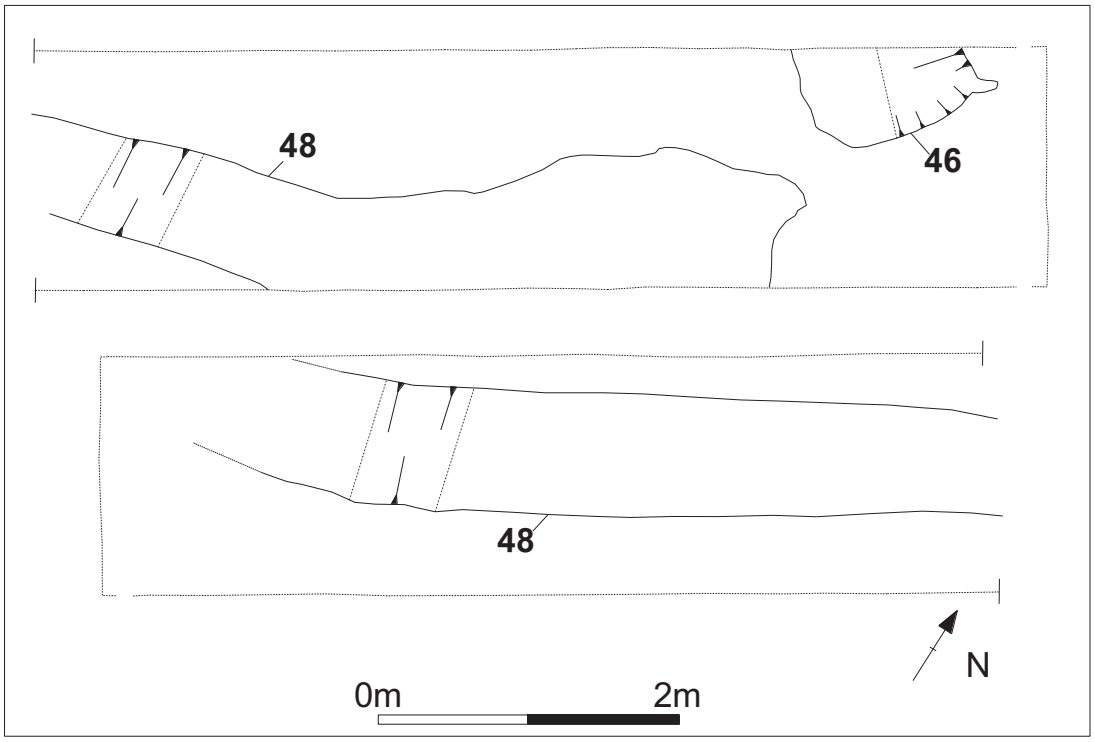

Fig.11. Detail of features in Trench 5

Trench 6

Length: 45m

Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.45m (min) 0.73m (max)
Orientation: North-east to south-west

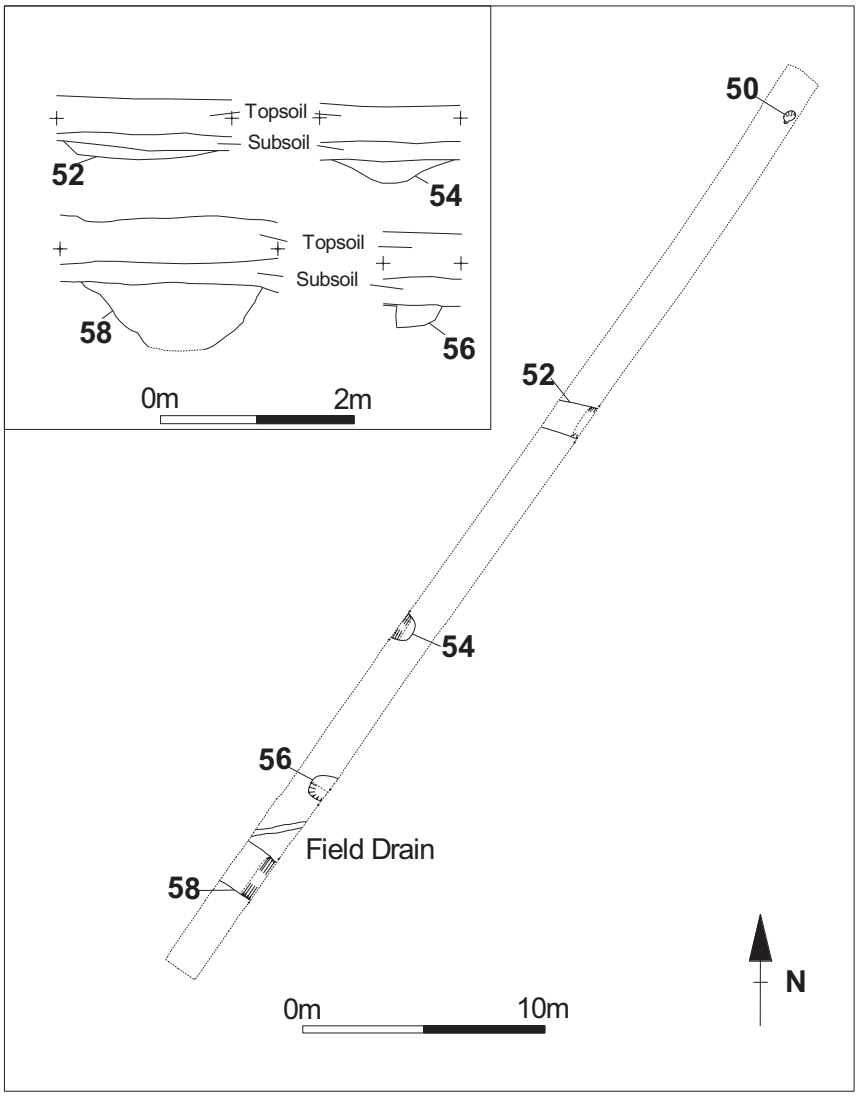

Fig.12. Plan of Trench 6 with sections of [52](NE-SW), [54](SW-NE), [56] (NE-SW) and [58] (NE-SW)

Six features were observed within this trench one of which was a field drain. Of the other features three were pits and two were ditches (Figs 12-13). Cut [50] was an irregular feature measuring *c*. 0.4m across, with a depth of 0.1m and can be interpreted as natural in origin. Pit [54] was a rounded shallow pit measuring 1.18m north-south, 0.62m (min) east-west and 0.2m deep. This feature contained a light grey clayey silt very similar to the fill of ditch [58]. Pit 56 was a less regular feature measuring 1.2m north to south, 0.8m (min) east-west and 0.17m deep. This feature contained a light brown/grey sandy silt.

Two ditches were observed in this trench. Ditch [52] was running approximately north-east to south-west and was filled with a light grey/brown sandy silt. This feature had shallow sloping irregular sides, measured 1.4m in width and was 0.18m deep.

Although this feature has been interpreted as a ditch it may be a very shallow pit. One piece of 2nd-4th century Roman grey ware was recovered from this area although not clearly associated with a feature. Ditch [58], aligned east-west was more substantial measuring 2m across and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m (base not reached; Fig. 14). Its fill comprised a light grey/brown sandy silt and contained Mesolithic flints and two fragments of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery (see p.20). The characteristics of this flint scatter suggests on site flint working. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

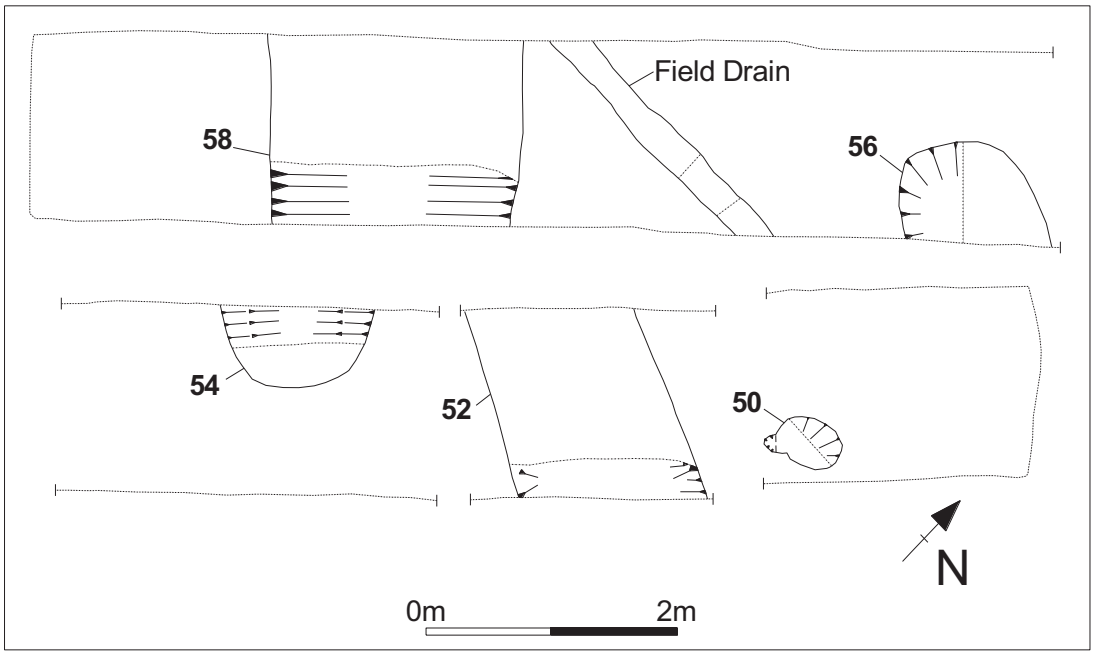

Fig.13 Detail of features in Trench 6

Fig.14. Excavated section of feature **58**

Trench 7

Length: 38m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.49m (min) 0.70m (max)
Orientation: North-east to south-west

Three features were observed within this trench (Figs. 15-16), all of which were pits. Cut 40 was 2.76m long, 0.6m wide with a depth of 0.34m. It contained a mid-light grey brown silty sand. Cuts 42 and 44 also contained a mid grey brown silty sand. [42] was 1.9m long, by 0.8m with a depth of 0.17m and was an indistinct feature with very diffuse and uncertain edges. Cut 44 was 1.6m long, 0.6m wide with a depth of 0.12m and again was indistinct with uncertain edges. Both [42] and [44] are assumed to be natural features. Feature 40 also had uneven sides and base but clear cut edges and can be assumed to be a pit despite the absence of finds from this feature.
No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

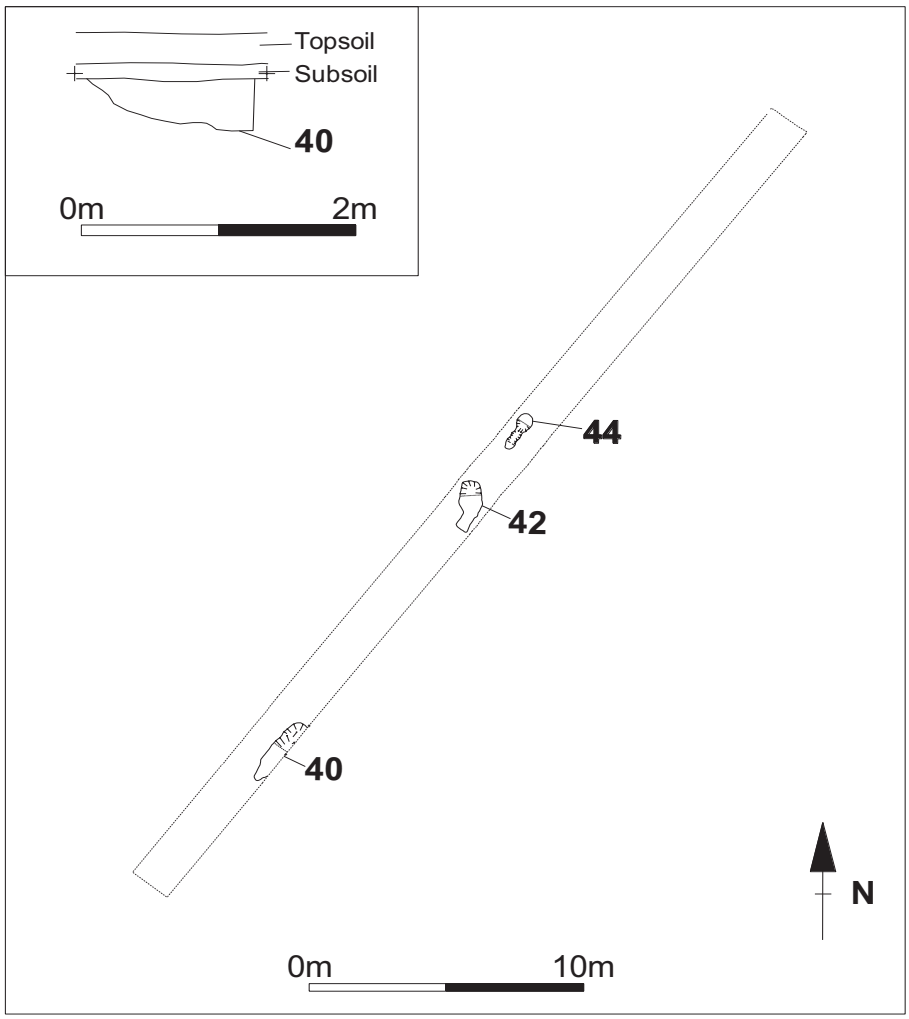

Fig 15. Plan of trench 7 with NE-SW section of [40]

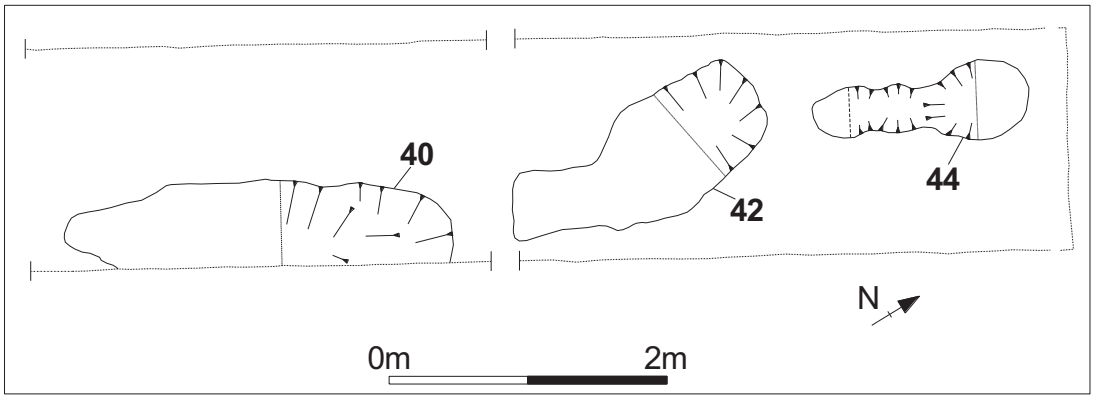

Fig.16. Detail of features in Trench 7

Trench 8

Length: 50m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.40m (min) 0.69m (max)
Orientation: N-S

Four features were observed within this trench, all of which were field drains, comprising parallel lines of tiles capped with slate.

No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

Trench 9

Length: 23.6m
Width: 1.6m
Depth: 0.46m (min) 0.86m (max)
Orientation: NNE-SSW

Five features were observed within this trench (Figs 17-18). All of the features within this trench were filled with a grey brown silty sand. Feature [24] was an oval shaped pit measuring 0.82m north-south, 0.54m east-west and 0.13m deep. Feature [26] was a possible post-hole 0.36m in diameter with a depth of 0.08m. Features [28] and [30] were both shallow pits with uncertain edges, [28] measuring 1.06m north-east to south-west 1.3m (min) north-west to south-east and 0.2m deep while [30] was *c*. 1.6m in diameter with a depth of 0.22m. An amorphous feature with uncertain edges [32] measured 3.9m north-east to south-west by *c*.1m north-west to south-east with a depth of 0.25m and was probably a natural feature. No other archaeological finds or features were located in this trench.

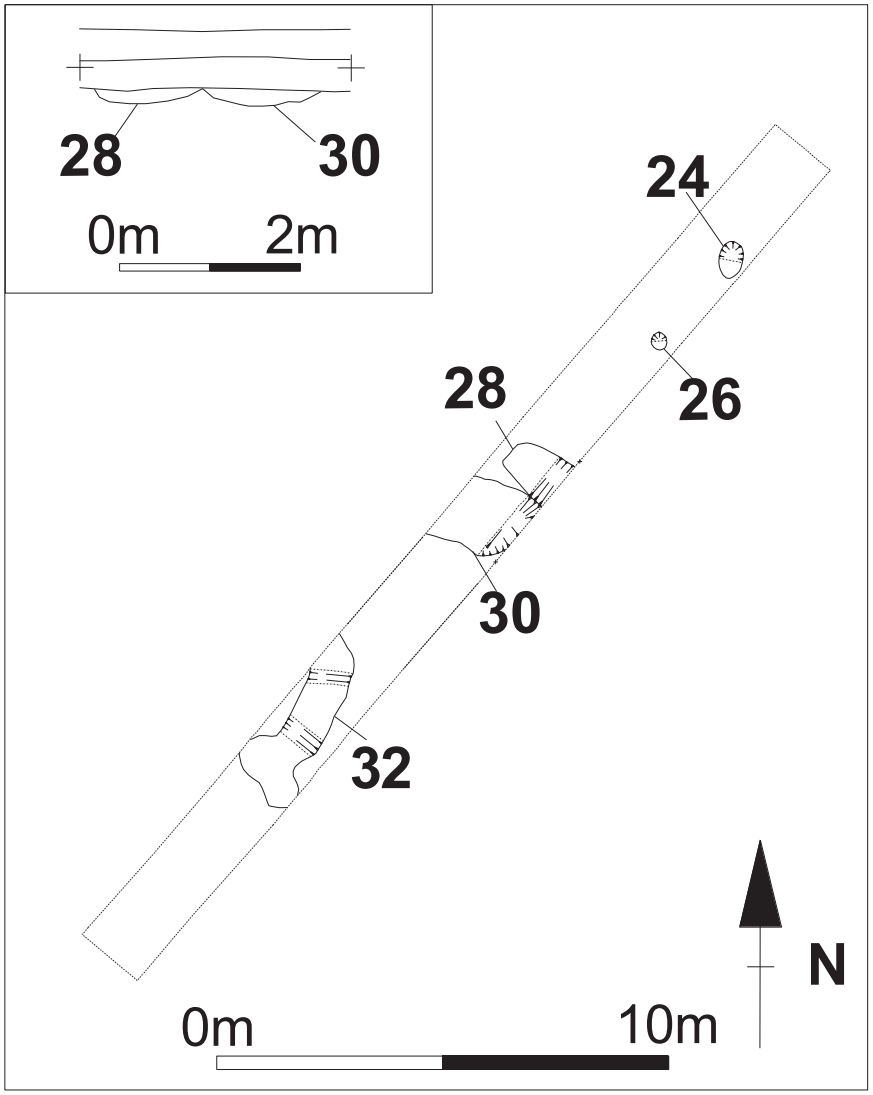

Fig.17. Plan of Trench 9 with NE-SW section of [28] and [30]

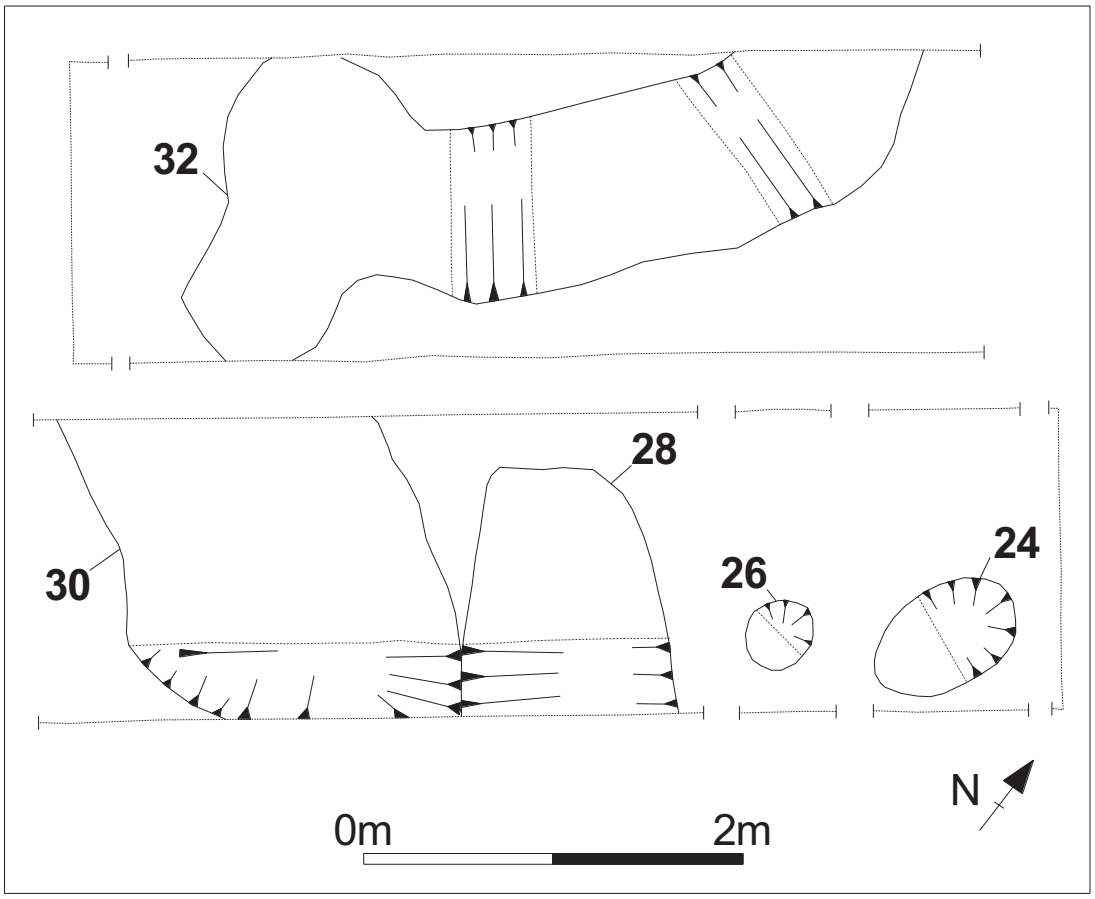

Fig 18. Detail of features in trench 9

7. Discussion

The trial trenching at the proposed Loughborough Road, Asfordby housing development revealed several archaeological and natural features as well as a number of field drains. These field drains are likely to be responsible for the positive anomalies detected by geophysical prospection (Fig 2; Smalley 2007). The majority of the identified features were sterile of artefacts; however there were some notable exceptions.

In trench 1 a scatter of Mesolithic flints was recovered from the subsoil. This partly overlay a large depression filled with colluvium. The lack of damage and the typology of this material suggests in situ flint knapping of Mesolithic material. Sealed deposits containing Mesolithic flint scatters have been identified as a priority for research (Myers 2006).

A concentration of features was observed in the area of Trenches 2 and 9. These features included post-holes and pits one of which contained a small fragment of Beaker pottery. In Trench 6 to the west other features were revealed including a large ditch which contained two sherds of Beaker pottery. These sherds have affinities with Beaker pottery from an important Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age site at Rothley, Leicestershire (Hunt 2006). The presence of archaeological deposits containing this material is evidence of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age activity and may suggest the

presence of a settlement. Deposits of this date are very rare and of regional importance (Clay 2006, 77).

Survival of sealed deposits of this date are unusual and may reflect the limited modern ploughing that has taken place in an area which appears to have remained pasture for several hundred years (Hunt 2007).

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), 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 objects) (Roman finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700, 1993) will usually be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Nine trench recording sheets

58 context sheets,

Seven primary drawing sheets,

163 digital photographs (on CD Rom), 72 (2 films) black and white negatives with contact prints, photographic index

Finds comprising 21 flint artefacts (Appendix 1), 3 sherds of pottery (Appendix 2),

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museums Services under the accession number X.A124.2008.

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Lara Callahan and Mireya Gonzalez-Rodriguez. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project. I would like to thank Jelsons Ltd. for arranging access and organising the machinery for the evaluation.

10. Bibliography

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Smalley, R., 2007 *Geophysical Survey Report. Asfordby, Leicestershire* Stratascan

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07.11.2008

Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching on Land to the east of Loughborough Rd,Asfordby, Leicestershire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	David Parker
Previous/Future work	Previous work: Desk-assessment (Hunt 2007), Geophysical survey (Smalley 2007). Future work:TBA
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 701 192
Start/end dates of field work	16th/24th September 2008
Archive Recipient	Leicester County Council
Study Area	1.8ha

Appendix 1: The flint artefacts L. Cooper

A small assemblage of 22 worked flints was recovered. The flint is a good quality semi-translucent variety from a till source. The material from Trench 1 includes many pieces with a bladelet technology and can be considered as Mesolithic. The artefact concentration and the lack of damage would suggest that it derived from an in situ scatter. The stratified material also has a predominant bladelet technology and is of a similar date. While it may be residual, its good condition would suggest that it had seen little post-depositional been disturbance. The crested bladelet and cores would suggest on-site knapping. The East Midlands Research Agenda assessment identified in situ Mesolithic scatters as a priority for research (Myers 2006).

Context	Type	Comment
Tr 1 u/s	Bladelet core (A2 – single platform)	Patinated
	Bladelet	Patinated slightly
	Flake	calcined
	Flake	
	Flake	Slight patina, bladelet scars
	Bladelet	Slight patina
	Utilised blade	
	Bladelet core (opposed platform)	
	Flake	
	Bladelet	
2	Bladelet frag	
2	Bladelet	Dihedral butt
54	Bladelet	
57	Truncated bladelet	Irregular microlith?
	Crested bladelet	
	2 x Blade	
	2 x Flake	
	Bladelet core (opposed platform)	
	Flake	Bladelet scars
	Bladelet	

Myers, A. 2006. The Mesolithic, in N. Cooper (ed), *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 51-68.

Appendix 2: The Prehistoric Pottery *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Three sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery were retrieved from the site. Two decorated sherds (30g), belonging to separate vessels, came from Trench 6 in fill (57) of ditch [58] and can be attributed to the Beaker pottery tradition of the Early Bronze Age (*c*.2500 BC-1800 BC). The third sherd (3g), which is undecorated, comes from Trench 2 fill (5) of cut (6) and is probably of later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Sherd 1 Trench 6 context (57)

Body sherd, from the lower wall of a vessel, of 150mm in diameter. Wall thickness 5mm. Orange oxidised fabric with a light grey core and a light brown internal margin and surface. Fine sandy fabric containing predominantly rounded quartz grains <0.5mm and occasionally more angular pebble fragments up to 1mm. The surface is decorated with linear toothed comb motifs comprising six teeth arranged in horizontal lines surmounted by a band of five motifs arranged diagonally to form a continuous horizontal zig-zag pattern.

Sherd 2 Trench 6 context (57)

Body sherd, probably from lower wall of a vessel of 240mm diameter. Wall thickness 7mm. Orange oxidised fabric with light brown inner margin and dark grey core inner margin and internal surface. Fabric fine sandy and similar to Sherd 1 with rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, but with occasional red ferruginous pellets (naturally occurring in the clay) and plate-like surfce voids indicative of sparse shell fragments up to 2mm. The decoration comprises faint single-line toothed motif impressions forming an open lattice work of 8mm side.

Sherd 3 Trench 2 context (5)

Undecorated body sherd from a vessel of approximately 250mm in diameter. Wall thickness 9mm. Light orange external surface, light brown outer margin, giving way to grey core, internal margin and internal surface. Fine sandy fabric but quartz less well sorted and with occasional angular fragments up to 2mm.

Discussion

The fabrics represented here are atypical of those used for locally produced domestic pottery of the Neolithic impressed ware and Bronze Age traditions in Leicestershire such as the very heavily white quartz tempered material from Lockington and Rothley (unpublished ULAS reports), but they are very close in character to those belonging to other Beaker-like vessels of Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age date found with an important Grooved Ware assemblage at Rothley (EBA vessel 1; Hunt 2006).

Appendix 3

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Job title*:* Asfordby, Loughborough Road

NGR: (SK 701 192)

Client: Jelson Ltd.

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application No. 07/00745/FUL

1. Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a design specification for a second phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para.30). The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2001) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1 The site is located on the north-west edge of Asfordby south of the A6006 on the north-east side of Loughborough Road and adjacent to a Primary School and Community Centre (SK 701 192). It covers an area of c. 1.8 ha. and currently comprises a single large grassed field (Fig. 1).

2. 2 The proposed development is for the construction of 66 new homes with roads, car parks and some open space.

2. 3 The desk-based assessment has identified that although the site is not within the historic settlement core of the village, it does have some archaeological potential due to the proximity of prehistoric and Roman finds and the Saxon origins of the village (Hunt 2007)

2.4 Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested exploratory trial trenching covering a 2% sample of the area. The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- archaeological evaluation by intrusive trial trenching.

Geological and Topographical Background

2.5 The site lies on glacial Till (known also as Boulder Clay. The site lies at a height of c.68m O.D. rising up to 70m to the north-east.

Archaeological and Historical Background

2.6 The site lies at the periphery of the modern village of Asfordby. The Historic Environment Record shows a wide range of archaeological finds from the area from Prehistoric periods through to the medieval period. Map evidence indicates that the field has been under pasture for several hundred years and therefore any archaeological remains could be well preserved.

2.7 Geophysical survey was undertaken on the site in 2007 (Smalley 2007). This indicated the presence of medieval strip field systems (ridge and furrow) aligned east-west and other linear and area anomalies interpreted as pertaining to land drainage.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation 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 ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2001).

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4. 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, the Planning authority and the Client.

Trial Trenching Methodology

4.4 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken.

4.5 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of c. 1.6m and down to the top of archaeological deposits.

4.6 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

4.7 A 2% sample to be evaluated in areas available, the equivalent of nine 45m x 1.6m trenches (Fig. 2). The location of these may vary depending on constraints on site.

4.8 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark.

4.10 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer or equivalent. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.11 Any human remains will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

Recording Systems

4.12 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

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

4.14 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

4.15 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. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.

4.16 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.

4.17 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

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 the relevant Museum for storage in perpetuity.

5.3 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- 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.

5.5 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.6 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 labeled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, Senior Planning Archaeologist; SMR and Local Planning Authority.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:-

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

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.

6.4 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact Leicestershire County Council's SMR prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicestershire SMR it may be placed on the web-site. The Developer should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicestershire SMR.

7. Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. 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

10.1 The evaluation is scheduled to start 16th September 2008 with two staff. Further staff will be added if appropriate.

10.2 The report will be ready within three weeks of the completion of fieldwork. The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

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.

11.2 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 ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

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. At least one weeks notice will be given to LCC Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation 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 Field Evaluations.

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the 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 an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

15. Bibliography

IFA 2001	Standards and Guidance in Archaeological Field Evaluations
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)
Hunt, L, 2007	An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Land at Loughborough Road, Asfordby, Leicester (SK701 192) ULAS Report No2007-1376

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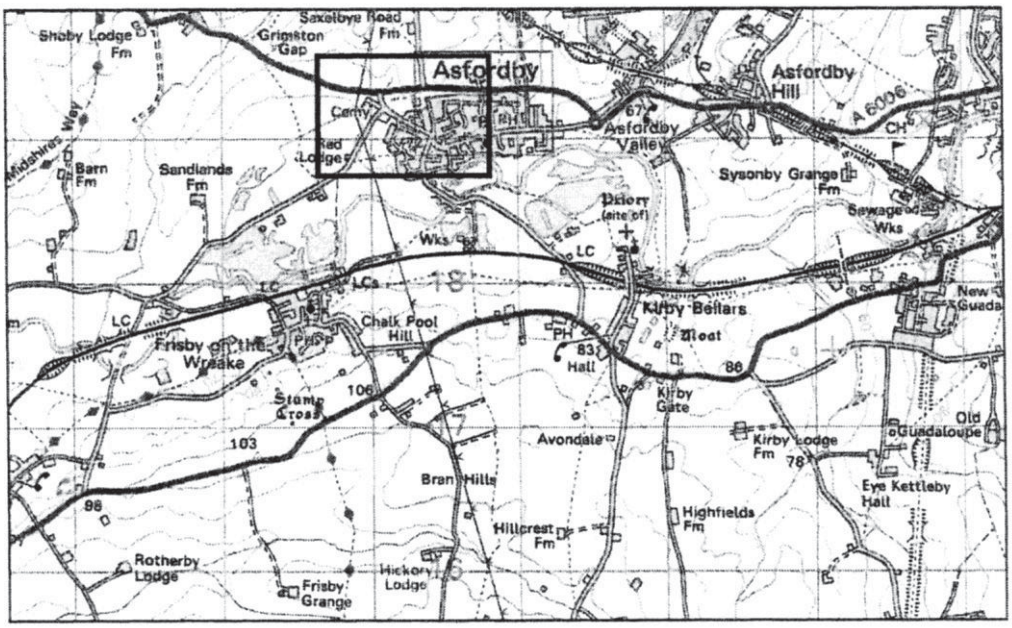

Fig 1 Location plan

Figure 2 Proposed trench locations

APPENDIX 1: Health & Safety

Job title: Asfordby, Loughborough Road
NGR: (SK 701 192)
Client: Jelson Ltd.
Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council
Planning application No. 07/00745/FUL

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

A risks assessment will be produced by on-site staff, which will be updated and amended during the course of the evaluation.

1. Nature of the work

1.1 The work will involve machine excavation by mechanical excavator during daylight hours to reveal underlying archaeological deposits. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.5 m with possible features excavated to a depth of another 1m. Trenches will not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.3m. Spoil will be stockpiled no less than 1.5 m from the edge of the excavation, the topsoil and subsoil being kept separate. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. Deeper features will be fenced with lamp irons and hazard tape. Two members of staff will be used on the evaluation.

2. Risks Assessment

Working on an excavation site.

2.1 Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.3m. Spoil will be kept 1.5m away from the edge of the excavated area to prevent falls of loose debris. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation/vehicle. Vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

Working with plant.

2.2 Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise topsoil stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established. Overhead power lines are present to the south of the areas to be evaluated. The machine will maintain a distance of at least 10 m to the north of the powerlines.

Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

2.3 If waterlogging occurs on site preventing work continuing it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. The sump will be covered when not in use and backfilled if no longer required. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

Working with chemicals.

2.4 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.

Other risks

2.5 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.