

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
During Groundworks at  
Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane,  
Norton-Juxta-Twycross  
Leicestershire (SK 3225 0690)**

**Roger Kipling and James Meek**

For Charles Yates (Homes) Ltd.

**Planning Application: 02/0357, 03/0173 and 03/0568**

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed: .....Date:**

**Name: .....**

**University of Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3225 0690).**

### **Summary**

*In August 2003, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological during groundworks for a new house at Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3225 0690). A single sherd of possible medieval pottery was noted at the site, but no other archaeological finds or features were revealed during the groundworks. The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service under the Accession number X. A194. 2003.*

### **Introduction**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches at Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3225 0690; see fig. 1 in appendix). Archaeological work was required as a condition of the Planning Permission granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (Planning Application Nos 02/0357, 03/0173 and 03/0568; see fig. 2 in appendix).

The Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section, in her role as advisor to the planning authority, recommended archaeological attendance during the groundworks, as the site is located in an area with archaeological potential. It lies within the medieval settlement core of the village, and adjacent to a previous archaeological watching brief that revealed a number of medieval finds.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 155, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Mercia mudstone with bands of Sandstone.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The site is located within the medieval historic core of Norton Juxta Twycross. The site is located between two possible medieval sites, a field system and a long rectangular pond (Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record Reference SK30NW.N).

Medieval settlement remains have also been recorded on the adjacent site to the proposed development area during a watching brief undertaken by ULAS in 2001. The results were summarised as follows:

*In May 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks for a new house to the rear of 5 Orton Lane, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3228 0688). A number of medieval pottery sherds were located during the topsoil stripping but could not be directly associated with any feature. No evidence of early features was revealed during the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches, although possible post medieval activity, including signs of landscaping, was observed.*

*Although the finds recovered did not come from a recognisable feature they were all recovered from the same area. The finds confirm the medieval origins of the village and perhaps suggest medieval backyard activity from properties fronting onto Main Street. (Browning 2001)*

Due to the sites location it is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods. There is still a potential for archaeological deposits predating the early medieval period to survive, although this level of potential has not been assessed.

## **Aims and Methods**

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The groundworks were to involve a topsoil strip over the area of the proposed dwelling, and the excavation by machine of foundation trenches. The site was visited on the 28th August 2003.

The site had already been partially topsoil stripped when visited, and the area of a former bungalow had been cleared. The resulting surface and spoil were observed for finds and possible features.

The foundation trenches were excavated using a machine, and were 0.6m wide and 2m in depth. The large depth of the foundations was necessary due to the proximity of large conifer trees along the plot boundaries having destabilised the ground.

## **Results**

A depth of c.0.3-0.4m of topsoil was recorded. This revealed a dense mid reddish brown clay with banding of slightly less dense pale greenish clay. This subsoil could be seen to the base of the foundation trenches, in the region of 2.2m below the former ground surface.

The land was noted as rising gradually upwards from the street frontage to the rear of the plot, from north to south.

No archaeological features were revealed in the topsoil stripped surface or within the sides of the foundation trenches. Although the site area and spoil heaps were searched for artefacts, only two sherds of pottery were noted. One was a small sherd of pancheon ware of post-medieval to modern date, and the second was a small sherd of undiagnostic, probably medieval pottery. Unfortunately both sherds of pottery have been misplaced and further

analysis is not possible, although as they were found in the residual context of the topsoil, their significance can only be seen as limited.

## **Conclusion**

One sherd of possibly medieval pottery and one sherd of post-medieval to modern pottery were noted within the topsoil of the site. No other archaeological features or finds were recorded at the site. The proximity of the site to known medieval archaeological features, and the nine fragments of medieval pottery found on the adjacent plot (Browning 2001), demonstrate that the village of Norton-Juxta-Twycross has medieval origins, and there is still a good potential that remains of this date may survive within the vicinity, although no features were exposed by the groundworks within this area.

## **Archive**

The archive consists of photographs, reports and site notes. The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service under the Accession Number X.A194.2003.

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Mr. Yates and the contractors for their help and co-operation during this watching brief. The project was managed by James Meek.

**Roger Kipling and James Meek  
University of Leicester Archaeological Services  
3rd October 2003**

## UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

### Design Specification for Archaeological Works

**Site:** *Plot 2, 7 Orton Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross, Leicestershire*

**NGR:** *SK 3225 0690*

**Client:** *Charles Yates (Homes) Ltd.*

**Planning Authority:** *Hinckley and Bosworth Borough*

**Planning Application Numbers:** *02/0357, 03/0173 and 03/0568*

### Summary

*In view of the potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval village of Norton Juxta Twycross, the site lying within the historic core of the village and between two known possible medieval sites of a field system and a long rectangular pond, the archaeological adviser to the planning authority has recommended archaeological attendance and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks for the proposed development, 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 and recording during topsoil stripping and groundworks likely to disturb archaeological remains, if present.

## 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 site is located within the medieval historic core of Norton Juxta Twycross. The site is located between two possible medieval sites, a field system and a long rectangular pond (Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record Reference SK30NW.N).

3.2 Medieval settlement remains have also been recorded on the adjacent site to the proposed development area during a watching brief undertaken by ULAS in 2001. The results were summarised as follows:

*In May 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks for a new house to the rear of 5 Orton Lane, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3228 0688). A number of medieval pottery sherds were located during the topsoil stripping but could not be directly associated with any feature. No evidence of early features was revealed during the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches, although possible post medieval activity, including signs of landscaping, was observed.*

*Although the finds recovered did not come from a recognisable feature they were all recovered from the same area. The finds confirm the medieval origins of the village and perhaps suggest medieval backyard activity from properties fronting onto Main Street.*

3.3 Due to the sites location it is seen as having the potential to contain associated archaeological deposits of medieval and later periods. There is still a potential for archaeological deposits predating the early medieval period to survive, although this level of potential has not been assessed.

3.3 In response to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council planning applications 02/0357, 03/0173 and 03/0568 to construct a new dwelling, Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services advised the planning authority that planning permission should be granted subject to an archaeological condition. The groundworks will comprise the removal of topsoil, excavation of footings, associated services and access routes, which would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site. The entire development will cover

3.4 The underlying geology of the site consists of Boulder Clays and Clays and Silts (British Geological Survey map sheet 170). The site lies at a height of approximately 152m aOD.

### **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 Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Councils Heritage Services Section, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council planning authority and the Client, if required.

#### 4.2 ***Watching brief methodology***

- 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. The commencement of groundworks and subsequent timetable of works must be agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will observe any topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches and drains, 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 and the Senior Planning Archaeologist, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage 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 Leicestershire Museums for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 An accession number will be obtained for the watching brief which 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 Senior 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), Senior Planning Archaeologist/Leicestershire SMR (2 copies) and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Planning Officer (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.
  - 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 the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for publication. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the archaeological works 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. The Senior Planning Archaeologist will also be consulted when dealing with such enquiries.

**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. An initial start date for the works has been suggested for 28th August 2003. This design specification will need to be approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist prior to any archaeological works commencing.
- 10.2 The report will normally be completed within eight weeks of the completion of 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.

It is assumed that the locations of all services on the site are already known to the Client, and that this information will be made known to the attending archaeologist.

**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.

**13. Monitoring arrangements**

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Senior Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Usually at least one weeks notice will be given to the Senior Planning Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological works in order that monitoring arrangements can be made, unfortunately in this case there has been some confusion with planning conditions resulting in the works commencing prior to archaeological.
- 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.

**JEM**

© ULAS 11/03/2011

### **Bibliography**

Browning, J. B., 2001 *An Archaeological Watching Brief off Main Street, Norton-Juxta-Twycross, Leicestershire (SK 3228 0688)*, ULAS Report No. 2001/062

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)

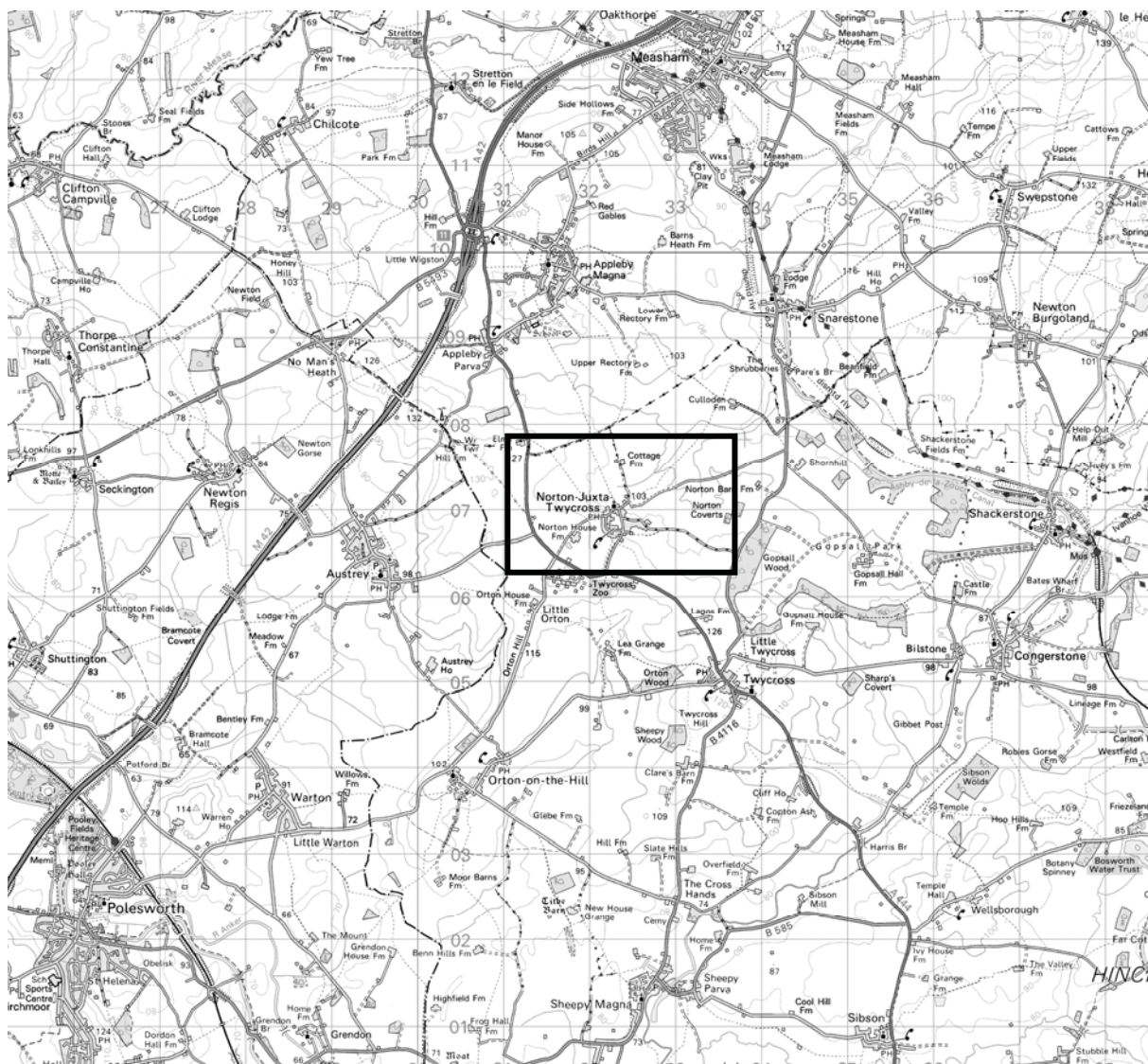


Figure 1: Location Plan

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey  
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021186.

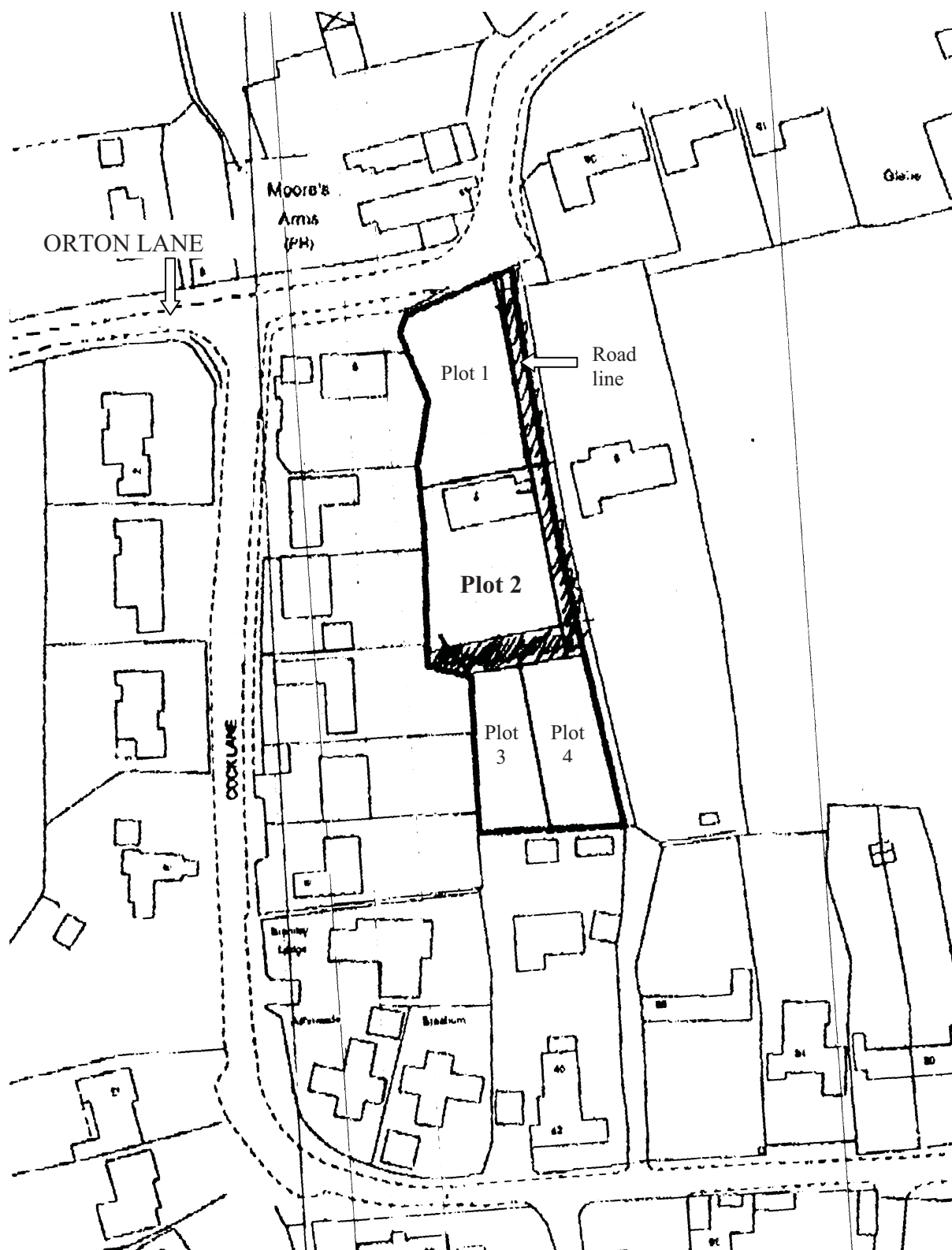


Figure 2: Site location plan indicating plot 2 and future development proposal plot numbers