

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on Land at
18, Manor Farm, Essendine, Rutland
(TF 047 127)**

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1. Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out adjacent to 18 Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland (TF 047 127). This work was undertaken during the ground works for the construction of a single dwelling and a double garage. This work was carried out on behalf of Mr Martyn Reed by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). No archaeological finds or deposits were observed during this work indicating that the site has seen little archaeological activity. The results of this archaeological watching brief are therefore negative.

2. Introduction

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground works for the construction of a single dwelling and a double garage on land adjacent to 18, Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland (TF 047 127)

2.2 The site had been identified as an area of archaeological potential due to the location within the medieval historic core of Essendine and as such may contain 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. In view of this an archaeological watching brief during the ground works was required as part of the planning conditions by Rutland County Council.

2.3 The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was then commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of the client, Mr Martyn Reed. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 21st February 2007. The work involved archaeological observation during excavation of foundation trenches for the single dwelling and double garage development.

3. Site Background

3.1 The development comprises the construction of a single dwelling and a double garage on land adjacent to 18, Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland (TF 047 127) A specification has been prepared by ULAS (Clay, 2006), outlining the archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) required by the planning authority during ground works.

3.2 The site lies within the historic core of the medieval village of Essendine and therefore has some potential for buried archaeological remains of this period.

3.3 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Lower Lias clay.

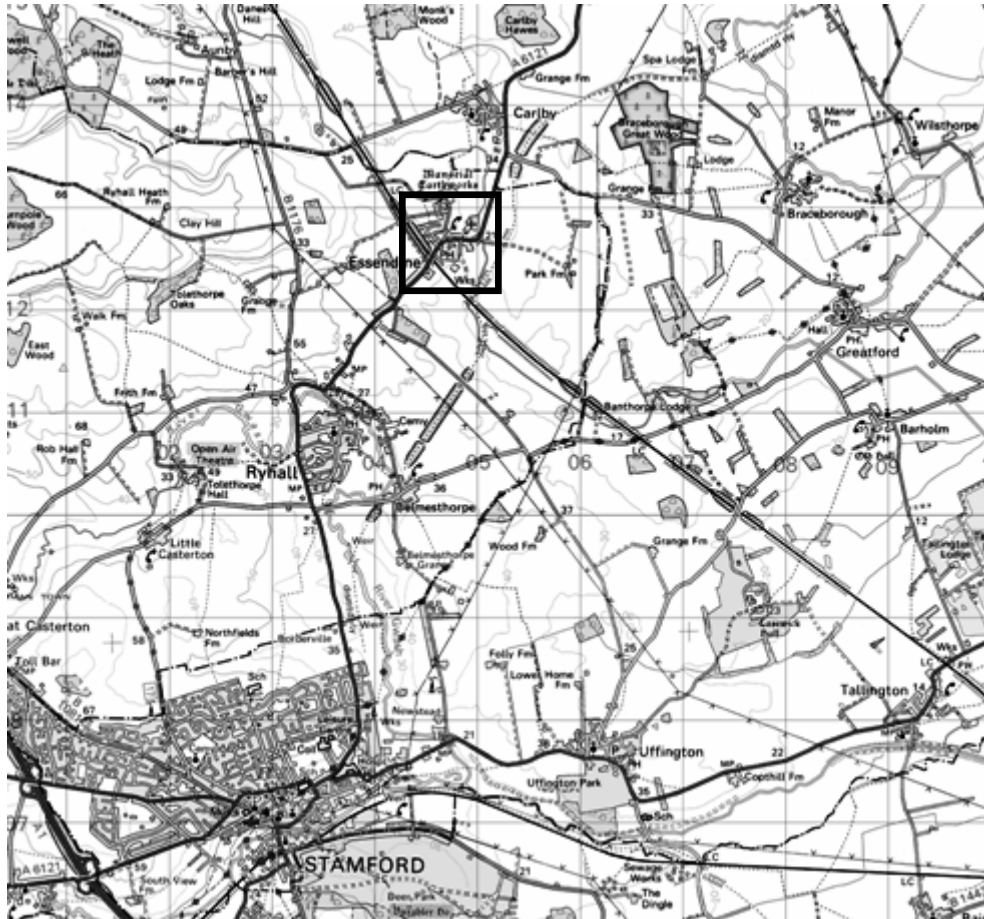


Figure 1: Location Plan

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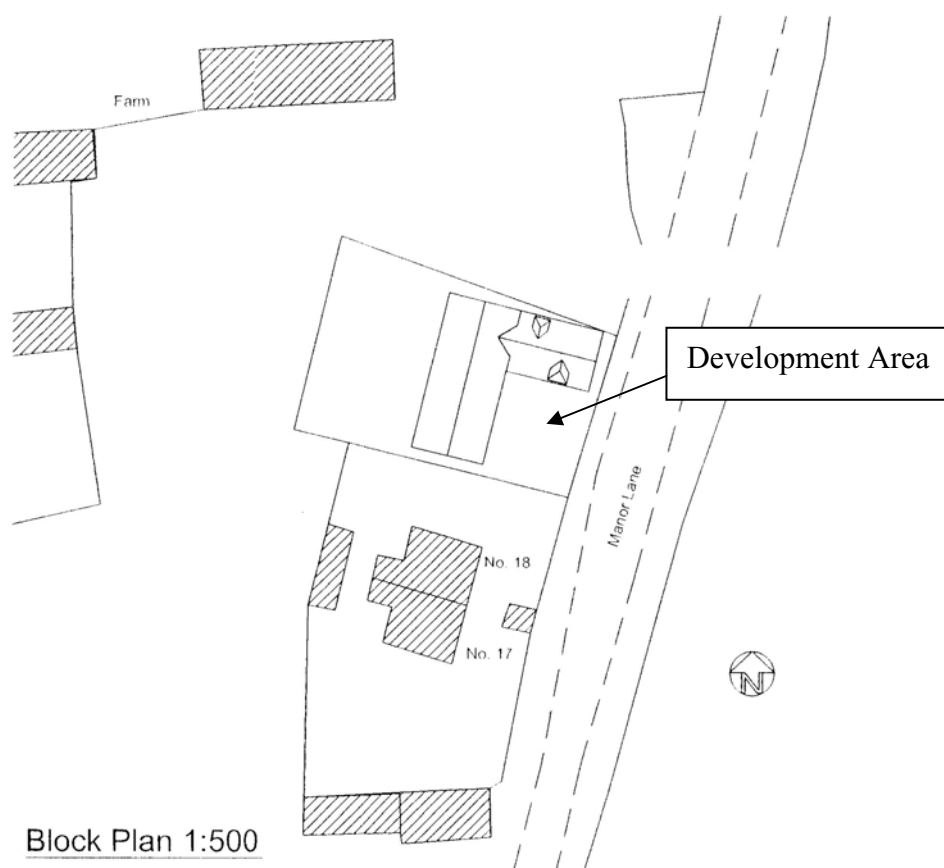


Figure 2 Site location plan indicating site area (plan supplied by developer)

4. Archaeological Objectives

4.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of 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 assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To define an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

5.1 All archaeological work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS). The work followed the approved design specification (Appendix).

5.2 The archaeological watching brief involved the control and supervision of ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance.

5.3 The main objectives of the watching brief, through archaeological supervision of existing overburden stripping and ground works by the client's contractors were:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or 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.

5.4 Any archaeological deposits located were to be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located would be hand excavated and measured drawings of all archaeological features prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100.

5.5 Archaeological deposits would 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 was paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

5.6 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.

6 Results

6.1 The topsoil consisted of a very dark grey loam, with minor root disturbance, to a depth of between c.0.2m and c.8m with a slope in the natural from north-west to south-east.

6.2 subsoil consisted of mid brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles, at a depth of c. 0.4m and the natural substratum consisted of yellow clay gravels.

6.3 The same sequence of soil horizons was observed in all of the foundation trenches.

6.4 No archaeological finds or deposits were located within the machine-excavated foundations or from an examination of the spoil.

7 Conclusion

7.1 No associated archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

7.2 Although within the medieval village core the application area appears to have only seen use as agricultural or garden land from the medieval period to the present day. No evidence of any prehistoric archaeology was observed during the watching brief.

8. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the client Mr D. Hollis for his help and co-operation on site, the project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, both of ULAS.

9. Bibliography

Clay, P. 2007, *Design Specification for Archaeological Works at 18 Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland (TF 047 127)*. ULAS Ref. 07/603

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Figure 3 **View of excavations looking north-west**



Figure 4 **View of excavations looking south-east.**

10. Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Works

Site: 18 Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland

NGR: TF 047 127

Client: Mr Martyn Reed

Planning Authority: Rutland County Council

Summary

In view of the potential of the site for containing buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval village of Essendine, the site lying within the historic core of the village, 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 an 'intensive watching brief' as defined by the IFA:

Archaeological supervision, 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 Essendine.
- 3.2 Due to the site's 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 Planning permission has been granted by Rutland District Council for the erection of a single dwelling and double garage on land adjacent to 18 Manor Farm Lane, Essendine, Rutland (TF 047 127). A condition for an archaeological watching brief has been placed on the planning decision.
- 3.4 The groundworks to be undertaken during the development will comprise the removal of topsoil, excavation of footings, associated services and access routes, which could severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present on the site.

4. Methodology

4.1 General Methodology and Standards

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 4.1.2 Staffing (as far as is possible), Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County 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 has been agreed between the Client, the Client's contractor and ULAS.
- 4.2.2 The archaeologist will supervise and 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 Rutland County Council 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 agreed for 21st February 2007.
- 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, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237). Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

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.
- 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.

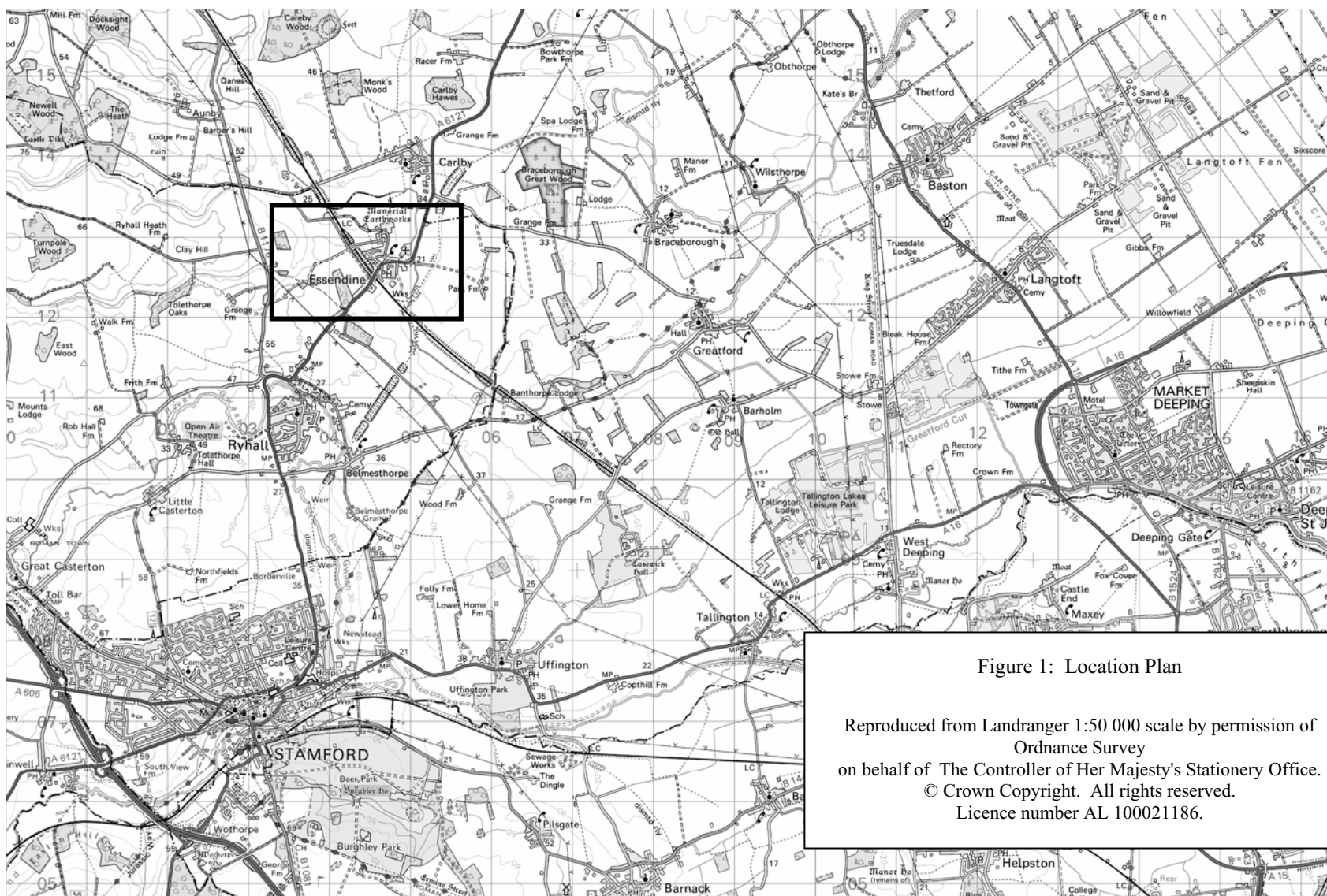
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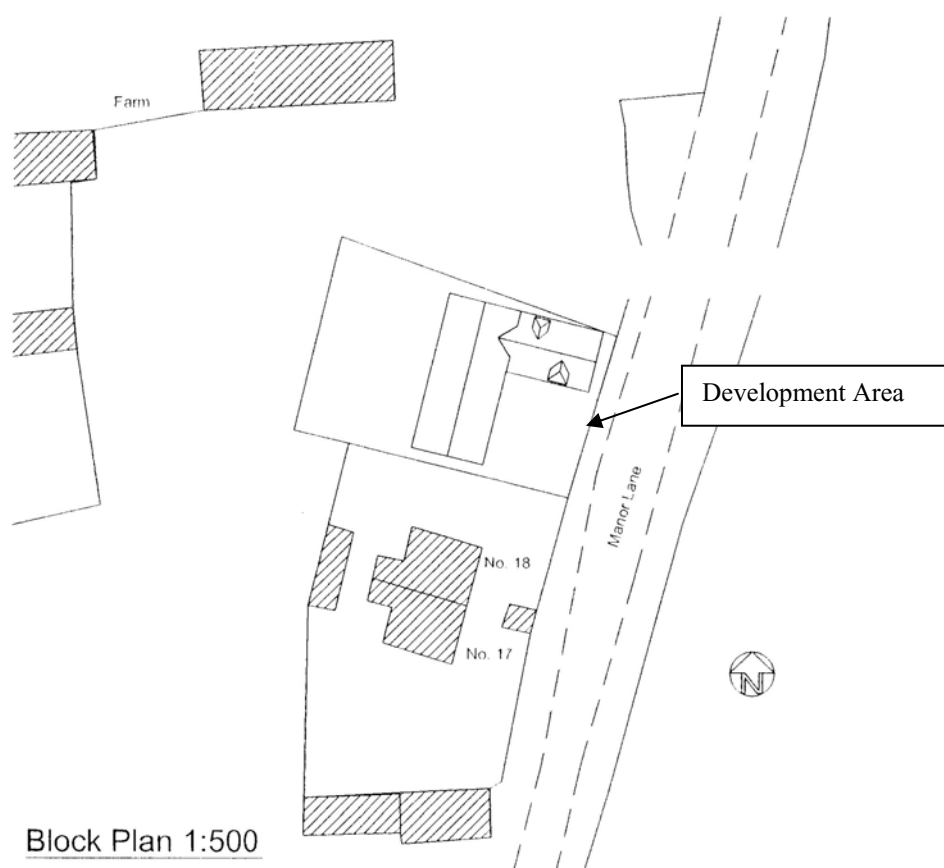


Figure 2: Site location plan indicating site area (plan supplied by developer)