

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land
At Newtown Linford Lane,
Groby, Leicestershire
(SK 525 076)**

Greg Farnworth-Jones

Client: Groby Farm Partnership

Planning Application No. 07/00379/4

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK 525 076) on the 7th June 2007. This work was in advance of the proposed construction of two barns and an access road and was carried out on behalf of Groby Farm Partnership by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds or features were located.

2. Introduction

2.1 This document constitutes the first stage of archaeological assessment to have been carried out on land at Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK 525 076). The archaeological assessment was undertaken on behalf of the Groby Farm Partnership by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on the 7th June 2007.

2.2 Groby Farm Partnership propose to develop an area of c.1500sq metres of land at Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK 525 076) for the construction of two barns and an access road (Fig. 1, Fig. 3). The Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching be undertaken to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance.

3. Site Background

3.1 The site is located at to the west of Newtown Linford Lane in a shallow valley immediately to the north of the A50 bypass, partially within the historic settlement core of Groby (Fig. 1).

3.2 The geology of the site is likely to consist of alluvial deposits running roughly east-west through Mercia Mudstone. The latter is exposed to the north where not masked by the drift deposits (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Melton Sheet 155)

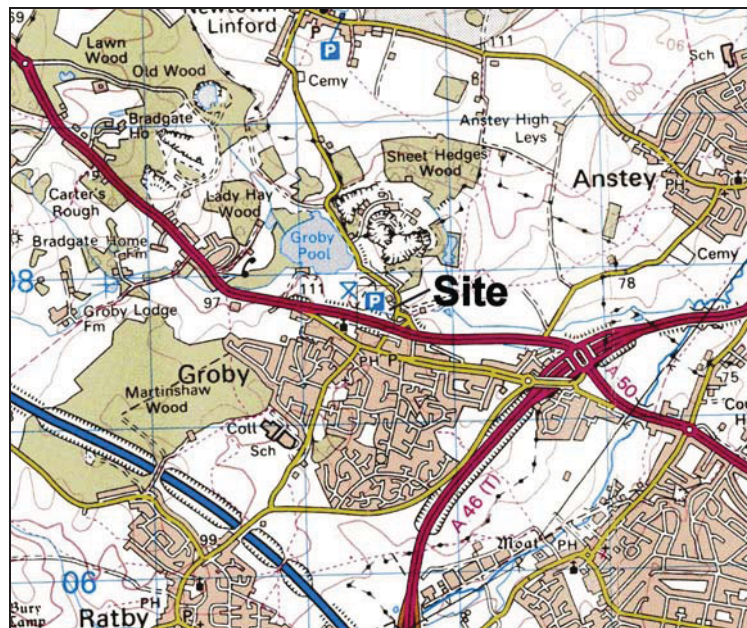


Figure 1. Location plan with the application area shown.

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4. Methodology

4.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

4.2 The main objectives of the evaluation were:

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

4.3 The Senior Planning Archaeologist had requested that a c. 5 % sample of the area (c.1500 sq metres) be excavated where new buildings are proposed. The work followed the *Design Specification for Archaeological work* approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist as advisor to the planning authority (Clay, 2007). This comprised of four 20m x 1.6m trenches totalling c.128 sq m. The exact location was defined by constraints of the area for trenching.

4.4 Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.6m.

4.5 Trenches were examined by appropriate hand cleaning. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans have been tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

4.6 Sections were drawn as appropriate, including records of at least one longitudinal face of each trench.

4.7 Trench locations were recorded using an electronic distance measurer and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	20.4m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	32.64sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.81.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.80.7m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.80.75m OD

Trench one was located on the north-western side of the site (Fig.2) and was orientated north-northeast-south-south-west. Initial machining revealed dark orangey brown, clayey silt topsoil with occasional rounded pebbles (1%), to a depth of c.0.25m. Further machining revealed mid red firm clay subsoil containing occasional angular stone (2%), down to a depth of c.0.23m. At a depth of 0.6m the natural substratum was reached which consisted of mottled red/brown/grey clay with occasional stones. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in trench one.

Trench 2 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	20m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	32sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.81.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.80.7m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.80.7m OD

Trench two was located 12.1m to the south west of trench one (Fig.2) and was also orientated parallel to trench one. Initial machining revealed mid grey silty clay topsoil with occasional small gritty stones <4%, down to a depth of c.0.2m. Further machining revealed to a depth of c.0.19m a subsoil layer which consisted of reddish brown clay, similar to that observed in trench 1. The natural substratum was reached at a depth of c.0.6m and consisted of mottled reddish grey clay. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in trench two.

Trench 3 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	20m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	32sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.81.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.80.7m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.80.7m OD

Trench three was located at 10.1m to the south west of trench two (Fig.2) and was also orientated parallel to it. Initial machining revealed similar topsoil to that observed in trench 1, down to a depth of c.0.3m. The subsoil layer consisted of firm greyish clay to a depth of between c.0.2m and c.0.4m (the southern end of the trench was slightly deeper). The natural substratum was reached at a depth of c.0.6m and consisted of red - grey clay similar to that observed in trench two. No archaeological features were located in trench three.

Trench 4 Details

<i>Length of Trench</i>	20m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	32sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.81.3m OD
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.80.5m OD
<i>Top of Natural (m OD)</i>	c.80.5m OD

Trench four was located at 9.6m to the south west of trench three (Fig.2) and was also orientated parallel to trench three. Initial machining revealed topsoil the same as that observed in trench one (dark orangey brown, clayey silt topsoil with occasional rounded pebbles 1%), down to a depth of c.0.2m. Further machining revealed greyish red clay subsoil to a depth of c.0.6m. Natural was reached at a depth of c. 0.8m and consisted of red grey clay similar to that seen in trenches two and three. Located at 12m from the northern end of trench one was encountered a modern concrete block and a land drain. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in trench four.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out on land at Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK 525 076) failed to produce any archaeological finds or features. The site appears not to have had any archaeological activity and so the results of the field evaluation were negative.

7. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Groby Farm Partnership, for their assistance. Patrick Clay, who managed the project and the fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of Dave Parker, all of ULAS.

8. Bibliography

Clay, P., 2007 *Design Specification for archaeological evaluation Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK525 076)* ULAS Ref. 07/401

Historic and Natural Environment Team, 2007 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation of 0 Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire)*

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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Job title: Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 525 076

Client: Groby Farm Partnership

Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning application No. 07/00379/4

1 Introduction

1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

This document is a design specification for an initial 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 S&G: AFE) 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

2.1 *Context of the Project*

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Newtown Linford Lane, Groby, Leicestershire (SK 525 076). The site comprises a pasture field.
- 2.1.2 An application has been made for the construction of two barns and access road.
- 2.1.3 Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (LCCHS) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested a field evaluation by trial trenching to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. This requirement is detailed in their letter of 25.04.2007.

2.2 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

- 2.2.1 The site is located partly within the medieval historic core of Groby (HER MLE 5991) and close to the Scheduled Monument of the Motte and Bailey castle and Manorial complex (DLE 336) and therefore may have archaeological remains surviving.

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

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 Field Evaluation* (1999).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, 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 the Planning authority and the Client.

4.2 *Trial Trenching Methodology*

- 4.2.1 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas will be taken. A Cat scanner will be employed to attempt to locate underlying services.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil/modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.5m and down to the top of archaeological deposits.
- 4.2.3 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 The application area covers *c.* 1500 sq metres. A *c.* 5% sample of the area of impact is proposed, the equivalent of four 20m x 1.6m trench totaling *c.* 128 sq m. (Fig 1). The exact location of the trenches may need to be modified depending on constraints on site.
- 4.2.5 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 establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.6 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.
- 4.2.7 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.8 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.

4.3 *Recording Systems*

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 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 trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 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. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.

- 4.3.5 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.
- 4.3.6 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 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.
- 5.3 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:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - iv. 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.
- 5.4 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 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.

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 during w.c 04.06.2007 with two staff. Further staff will be added if archaeological remains are discovered.
- 10.2 An interim report will be proved by 12.06.2007 with a full report to follow. 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 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 the LCCHS Senior 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

- 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)

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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 Brief description of the work involved e.g.

The work will involve machine excavation by JCB 3C or equivalent 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 1.2m. 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. Three staff will be used on the evaluation.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. Trenches to not be excavated to a depth exceeding 1.2m. 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.

2.2 *Working with plant.*

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.

2.3 *Working within areas prone to waterlogging.*

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 Wiels disease or similar.

2.4 *Working with chemicals.*

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

2.5 *Other risks*

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

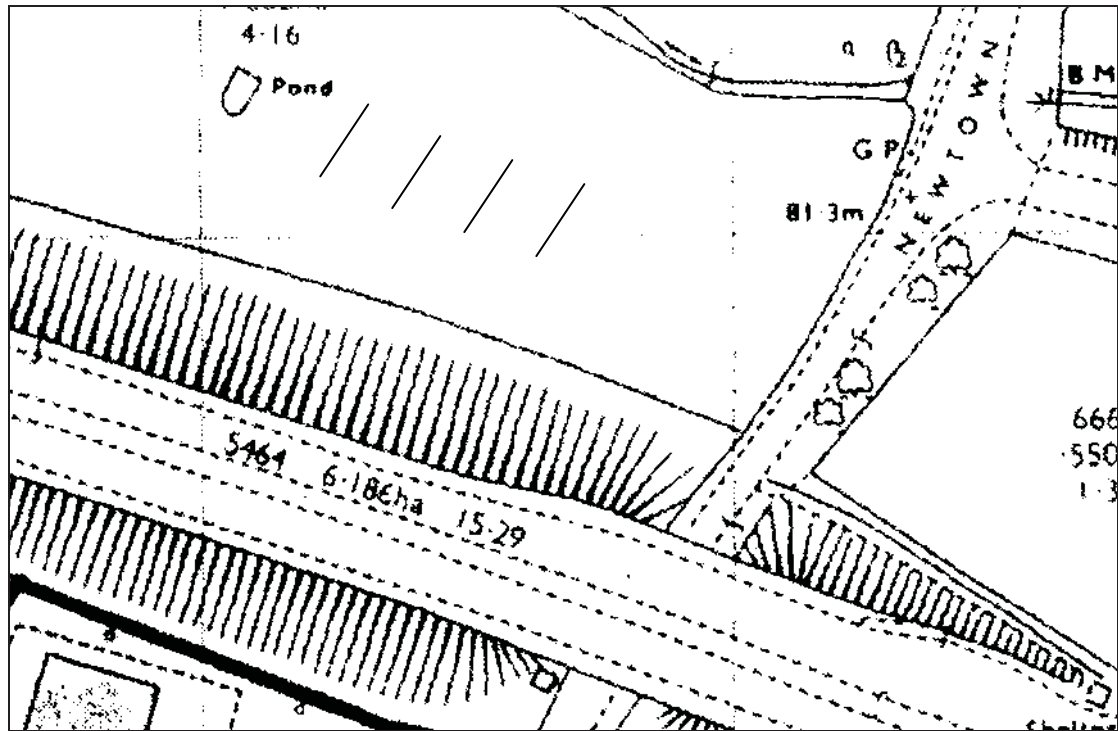


Fig 2 Trench plan (From ULAS Report 2006-143)

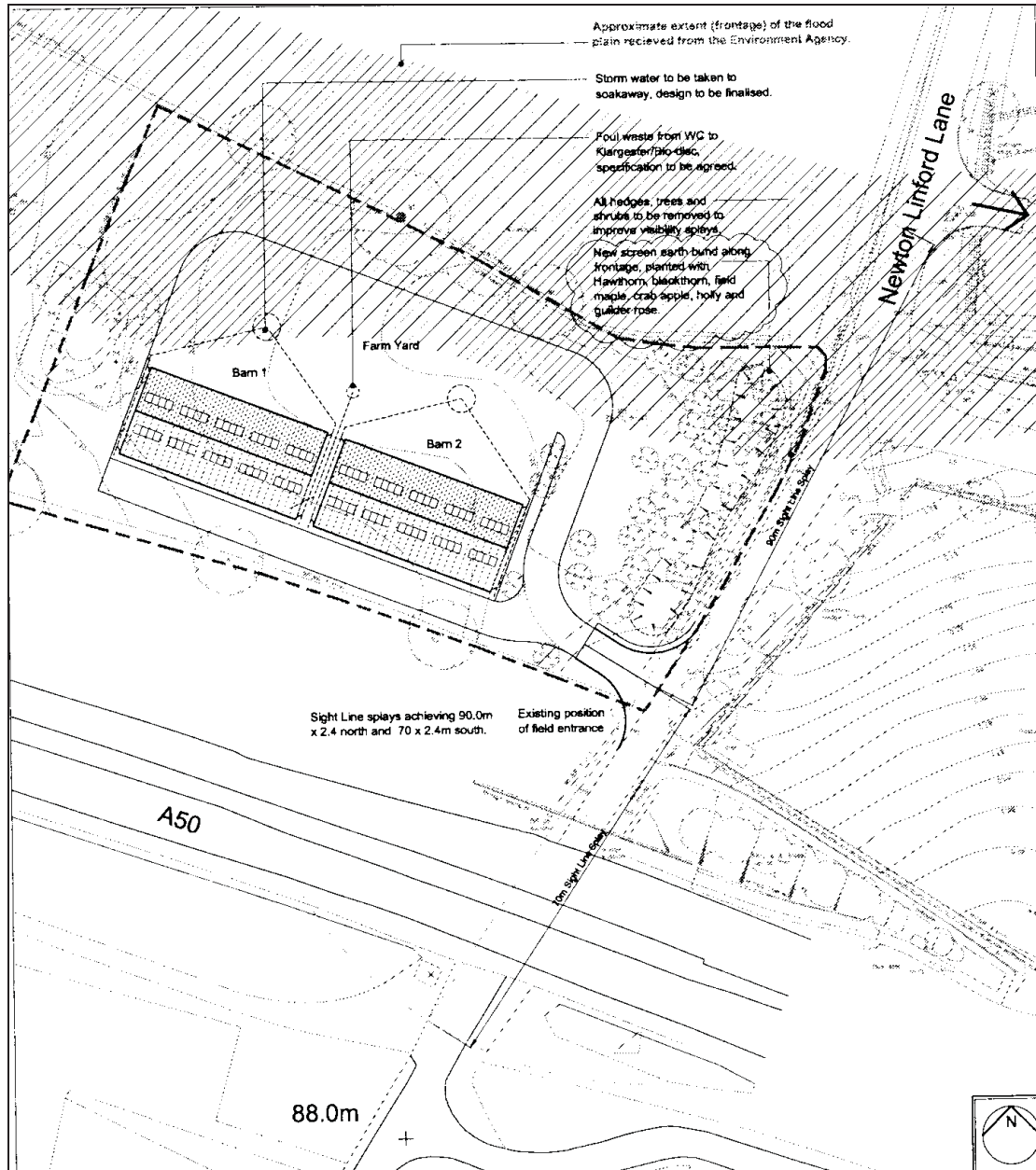


Fig 3 Plan of proposed development