

HFAD17



HALL FARM, CHURCH STREET, ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PLANNING REF. AVA/2016/0953

commissioned by Fisher German
on behalf of Mr K Seals

November 2017

HALL FARM, CHURCH STREET, ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **HFAD17** / NGR **SK 440679 355837** / Parish **Amber Valley** / Local Authority **Amber Valley Borough Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland5-298090** / Archive Repository **Derby Museum**

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Alistair Webb** / Author **Phil Roberts** / Fieldwork **Phil Roberts** / Graphics **Caroline Norrman**

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an Archaeological Watching Brief at the request of Jessica Herritty of Fisher German on behalf of their client, Mr K Seals, on land at Hall Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire. The watching brief took place during the excavation of 13 foundation pits dug to accommodate steel uprights for the construction of a new agricultural outbuilding. The monitoring was undertaken in order to mitigate the effect of the groundworks in an area which it is believed may be the site of a medieval manor house and/or the 16th century Alfreton Hall. In each pit the stratigraphy revealed a made ground deposit used to level the area overlying natural deposits. No remains of any buildings associated with the medieval manor or Alfreton Hall or any other archaeological features were observed.

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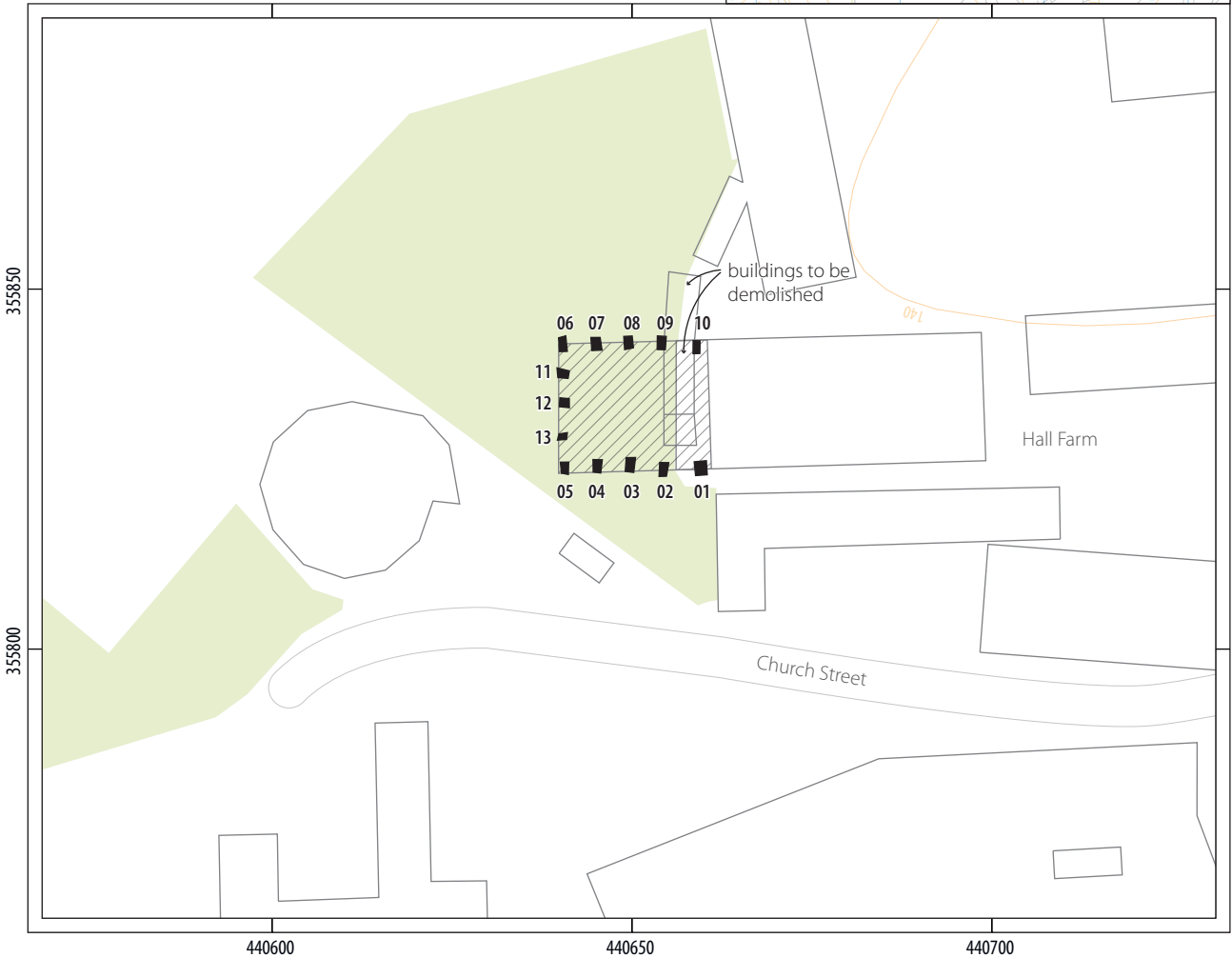
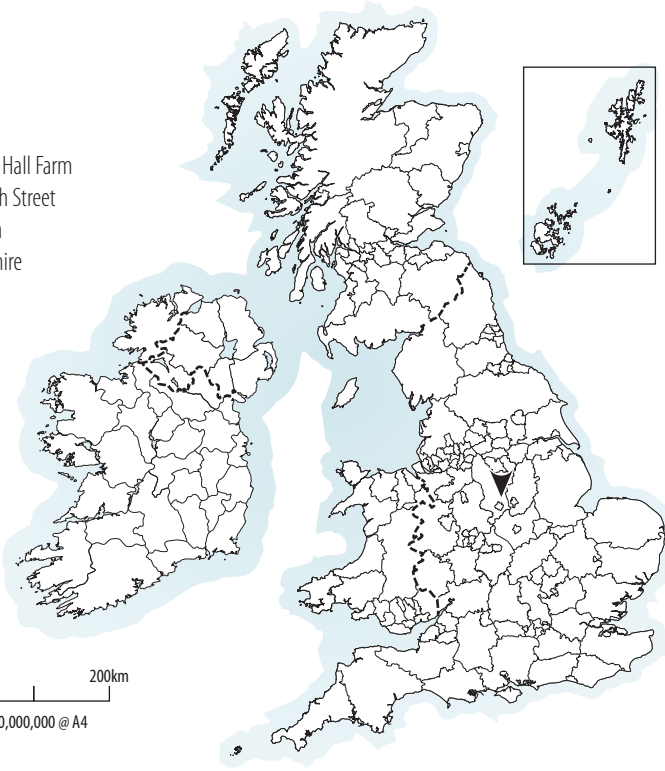
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Land at Hall Farm
7 Church Street
Alfreton
Derbyshire

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

■ foundation pit
▨ proposed building



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ILLUS 1 Site location

HALL FARM, CHURCH STREET, ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Hall Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire (Illus 1), during the excavations of foundations for an agricultural outbuilding. The watching brief was undertaken to comply with outline planning permission (Ref. AVA/2016/0953).

Work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Webb 2017) which was submitted to and approved by Amber Valley Borough County Council upon advice from Steve Baker, the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, and with all current industry best practices.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development area (PDA) is at Hall Farm, centred at NGR SK 440679 355837, to the north west of Alfreton and north of Church Street. The PDA is bounded by farmland to the north with farm buildings to all other sides. The new structure will form an extension to the existing cow shed and partially cover the footprint of two recently demolished buildings (Illus 1).

The solid geology within the PDA consists of Top Hard Rock – Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 315–318 million years ago in the carboniferous Period in an environment previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded (NERC 2017).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Following consultation with Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Officer, it was confirmed that the farm is

the likely site of a medieval manor house and/or the 16th century Alfreton Hall (although there are no above ground remains of either structure) which are recorded on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record as HER No. 16211. Consequently it was assessed that there may be currently unknown below ground archaeological remains of medieval or post-medieval date within the PDA which may be impacted by the groundworks for the new building.

2 OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the watching brief was to monitor the excavation of foundation footings associated with the construction of an agricultural outbuilding and excavate and record any archaeological remains.

The archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- › determine the presence or absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological remains (features or deposits), which are disturbed or exposed as a result of the groundworks, particularly those which may be associated with the 16th century hall or earlier manor house, within any of the footings which were excavated to facilitate the construction of the new outbuilding.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited with Derby Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (Cifa 2014a). An online OASIS form has been completed, reference no: headland5-298090, and is included in the report appendices.



ILLUS 2 Foundation pit 1, west facing section **ILLUS 3** Foundation pit 4, west facing section **ILLUS 4** Foundation pit 10, west facing section

3 METHOD

The watching brief was carried out on 3rd October 2017. A mechanical compact excavator (or ‘mini digger’) equipped with a toothed bucket was used to excavate 13 foundation pits to the appropriate formation level under direct archaeological supervision.

The archaeologist was able to enter the foundation pits area in order to record any interventions when appropriate. However, with the absence of any archaeological features, investigation was limited to the cleaning of sections with hand tools to enable the recording of the stratigraphy of each pit. All the foundation pits matched the dimensions and locations of the construction plans provided by the Client.

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Headland Archaeology 2017). All pits and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded. A digital photographic record was made of each pit.

4 RESULTS

Thirteen foundation pits (FP 1–13) were monitored and recorded ranging between 1.3–2m by 1–1.7m in width and between 0.96–1.16m in depth. The location of the foundation pits is shown on Illus 1.

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix 1

and Appendix 2. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (ie Foundation Pit 1: (01001), Foundation Pit 2: (02001)) with cuts indicated by squared brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects adherence to the CIfA guidance on report production, which states that ‘descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements’ (CIfA 2014b, 14, Section 5). Drawing upon the same document it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence gathered to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) encountered:

‘If archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.’ (CIfA 2014b, 14, Section 5)

Table 1 outlines the stratigraphy of each foundation pit. Foundation Pits 1–3 and 6–9 shared the same general stratigraphy. The uppermost and most recent deposit was dark brown to black clay silt topsoil/made ground (001) containing modern red brick and sandstone fragment inclusions with frequent bioturbation. This deposit varied in thickness from 0.15m to 0.39m across footprint of the development. Beneath this lay natural deposit (002) comprising light grey yellow sandy clay, firm and compact which became increasingly firm with depth. The foundation pits were excavated to a depth of between 0.57m to 0.84m into the natural deposits.

Foundation Pit 10 was located near to the footprint of the recently demolished agricultural outbuildings and contained an uppermost

layer of concrete (001) measuring 0.15m in thickness, rather than the topsoil/made ground found elsewhere. This comprised the floor surface of the recently demolished outbuilding. Beneath this was the same natural deposit (002) recorded in all the pits. This was excavated to a depth 0.85m in thickness.

Foundation pits 4/5 and 11–13 also shared a general stratigraphy. The uppermost deposit (001) was the same as seen elsewhere and measured 0.15m to 0.3m in thickness. Under this deposit, however, a made ground layer (002) was recorded comprising light grey brown sandy silt with modern red brick and sandstone fragments and frequent bioturbation in the form of rooting. This deposit varied in thickness from 0.22–0.58m across the five pits. Beneath this was natural (003) which was the same as found elsewhere and measured 0.31–0.56m.

All 13 foundation pits were archaeologically sterile with no evidence for the medieval manor house or Alfreton Hall present.

FP	Max D (m)	Stratigraphy		Archaeology present	Dimensions (m)
		Deposit	D (m)		
1	1	Topsoil/Made Ground (01001)	0 – 0.28	None	2 x 1.7
		Natural (01002)	0.28 – 1+		
2	1.16	Topsoil/Made Ground (02001)	0 – 0.39	None	2 x 1.28
		Natural (02002)	0.39 – 1.16+		
3	1.12	Topsoil/Made Ground (03001)	0 – 0.28	None	1.95 x 1.17
		Natural (03002)	0.28 – 1.12+		
4	1.14	Topsoil/Made Ground (04001)	0 – 0.25	None	1.77 x 1.27
		Made Ground (04002)	0.25 – 0.83		
		Natural (04003)	0.83 – 1.14+		
5	1.14	Topsoil/Made Ground (05001)	0 – 0.19	None	1.66 x 1.26
		Made Ground (05002)	0.19 – 0.52		
		Natural (05003)	0.52 – 1.14+		
6	1.02	Topsoil/Made Ground (06001)	0 – 0.22	None	1.84 x 1.22
		Natural (06002)	0.22 – 1.02+		
7	1	Topsoil/Made Ground (07001)	0 – 0.2	None	1.84 x 1.28
		Natural (07002)	0.2 – 1+		

FP	Max D (m)	Stratigraphy		Archaeology present	Dimensions (m)
		Deposit	D (m)		
8	0.98	Topsoil/Made Ground (08001)	0 – 0.22	None	1.75 x 1.21
		Natural (08002)	0.22 – 0.98+		
9	1.03	Topsoil/Made Ground (09001)	0 – 0.24	None	1.67 x 1.28
		Natural (09002)	0.24 – 1.03+		
10	0.98	Concrete Surface (10001)	0 – 0.15	None	1.8 x 1
		Natural (010002)	0.15 – 0.98+		
11	0.96	Topsoil/Made Ground (11001)	0 – 0.18	None	1.6 x 1.1
		Made Ground (11002)	0.18 – 0.4		
		Natural (11003)	0.4 – 0.96+		
12	1.16	Topsoil/Made Ground (12001)	0 – 0.3	None	1.38 x 1.35
		Made Ground (12002)	0.3 – 0.7		
		Natural (12003)	0.7 – 1.16		
13	1.14	Topsoil/Made Ground (13001)	0 – 0.4	None	1.33 x 1.16
		Made Ground (13002)	0.3 – 0.7		
		Natural (13003)	0.68 – 1.14+		

TABLE 1 Pit stratigraphy

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Monitoring of the groundworks revealed made ground deposits used to raise up and level the immediate vicinity, presumably the remains of the recently demolished farm buildings. The landowner has then likely spread this debris across the PDA in order to dispose of it. No remains of any structures which may form part of, or be associated with the medieval manor house or Alfreton Hall or any other archaeological features were observed.

6 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 23 October 2017
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIFAS&GArchives_2.pdf accessed 23 October 2017

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014c *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf accessed 23 October 2017

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 04 October 2017

Webb A 2017 *Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation Hall Farm, Church Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire* [unpublished client report] Headland Archaeology, Ref. HFAD17/01

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

FP	Orientation	Max. D (m)	Description	Area (m ²)
01	N/A	1	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 2 x 1.7m	3.4
02	N/A	1.16	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 2 x 1.28m	2.56
03	N/A	1.12	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.95 x 1.17m	2.28
04	N/A	1.14	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.77 x 1.27m	2.25
05	N/A	1.14	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.66 x 1.26m	2.1
06	N/A	1.02	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.84 x 1.22m	2.25
07	N/A	1	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.84 x 1.28m	2.35
08	N/A	0.98	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.75 x 1.21m	2.12
09	N/A	1.03	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.67 x 1.28m	2.14
10	N/A	0.98	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.8 x 1m	1.8
11	N/A	0.96	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.6 x 1.1m	1.76
12	N/A	1.16	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.38 x 1.35m	1.86
13	N/A	1.14	Blank Foundation Pit measuring 1.3 x 1.16m	1.51

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Context	FP	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D)
01001	01	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional red brick fragments, frequent rooting.	2m x 1.7m x 0.28m
01002	01	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	2m x 1.7m x 0.72m
02001	02	Dark brown to black clay silt. Sticky and firm. Occasional red brick fragments and rooting.	2m x 1.28m x 0.39m
02002	02	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	2m x 1.28m x 0.57m

Context	FP	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D)
03001	03	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional red brick fragments, frequent rooting.	1.95m x 1.17m x 0.28m
03002	03	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.95m x 1.17m x 0.84m
04001	04	Mid grey/brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Frequent sandstone fragments, frequent rooting.	1.77m x 1.27m x 0.25m
04002	04	Light grey brown sandy silt. Loose. Frequent rooting and occasional red brick and sandstone fragments.	1.77m x 1.27m x 0.58m
04003	04	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.77m x 1.27m x 0.31m
05001	05	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional small-medium rounded stones, frequent rooting.	1.66m x 1.26m x 0.19m
05002	05	Light grey brown sandy silt. Loose. Occasional red brick and sandstone fragments.	1.66m x 1.26m x 0.33m
05003	05	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.66m x 1.26m x 0.62m
06001	06	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional red brick fragments, frequent rooting.	1.84m x 1.22m x 0.22m
06002	06	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.84m x 1.22m x 0.8m
07001	07	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Frequent red brick fragments, occasional rooting.	1.84m x 1.28m x 0.2m
07002	07	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.84m x 1.28m x 0.8m
08001	08	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional red brick and 'tarmac' like fragments.	1.75m x 1.21m x 0.22m
08002	08	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.75m x 1.21m x 0.76m
09001	09	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Frequent red brick fragments, occasional 'tarmac' like fragments, rare rooting.	1.67m x 1.28m x 0.24m
09002	09	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.67m x 1.28m x 0.79m
10001	10	Layer of concrete flooring associated with demolished farm outbuilding.	1.8m x 1m x 0.15m
10002	10	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.8m x 1m x 0.85m
11001	11	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional small rounded stones, frequent rooting.	1.6m x 1.1m x 0.18m

Context	FP	Description	Dimensions (L x W x D)
11002	11	Grey sandy clay. Compact and friable. Occasional rounded stones and frequent rooting.	1.6m x 1.1m x 0.22m
11003	11	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.6m x 1.1m x 0.56m
12001	12	Dark brown to black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional sandstone fragments, frequent rooting.	1.38m x 1.35m x 0.3m
12002	12	Grey sandy clay. Compact and friable. Occasional rounded stones, small sandstone fragments and frequent rooting.	1.38m x 1.35m x 0.4m
12003	12	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.38m x 1.35m x 0.46m
13001	13	Black clay silt. Loose and friable. Occasional sandstone fragments and frequent rooting.	1.3m x 1.16m x 0.4m
13002	13	Grey brown sandy clay. Compact and firm. Occasional sandstone fragments and frequent rooting.	1.3m x 1.16m x 0.28m
13003	13	Light grey yellow sandy clay. Firm and compact.	1.3m x 1.16m x 0.46m

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
12	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-012	N	South facing section of Foundation Pit 7
13	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-013	N	South facing section of Foundation Pit 7
14	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-014	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 8
15	VOID	VOID	HFAD17-02-015	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 8
16	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-016	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 9
17	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-017	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 9
18	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-018	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 10
19	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-019	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 10
20	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-020	W	East facing section of Foundation Pit 6
21	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-021	W	East facing section of Foundation Pit 6
22	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-022	S	North facing section of Foundation Pit 11
23	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-023	S	North facing section of Foundation Pit 12
24	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-024	W	East facing section of Foundation Pit 13

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
01	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-001	N/A	ID Shot
02	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-002	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 1
03	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-003	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 1
04	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-004	S	North facing section of Foundation Pit 2
05	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-005	S	North facing section of Foundation Pit 2
06	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-006	W	East facing section of Foundation Pit 3
07	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-007	W	East facing section of Foundation Pit 3
08	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-008	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 4
09	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-009	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 4
10	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-010	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 5
11	N/A	N/A	HFAD17-02-011	E	West facing section of Foundation Pit 5

APPENDIX 2 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: *headland5-298090*

Project details	
Project name	Archaeological watching brief at Hall Farm, Church Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief of the excavation of 13 test pits for foundation footings in advance of the construction of an agricultural outbuilding at Hall Farm, Alfreton.
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2017 End: 03-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HFAD17/01 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16211 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	AVA/2016/0953 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	MANOR HOUSE Medieval
Monument type	HALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE AMBER VALLEY ALFRETON Hall Farm
Postcode	DE55 7AH
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 44076 35553 52.915270913986 -1.344446637023 52 54 54 N 001 20 40 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology
Project brief originator	Derbyshire County Council Development Control Officer
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology
Project director/manager	Alistair Webb
Project supervisor	Phil Roberts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at Hall Farm, Church Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Roberts, P
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