

VLKN19



# VICARAGE LANE, KNEETON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REF. 15/01668/FUL

commissioned by Lowe Construct and Build Ltd

July 2020



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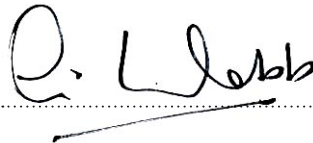
#### PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **VLKN19** / NGR **SK 70941 46074** / Parish **Kneeton** / Local Authority **Rushcliffe Borough Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland5-399832**

#### PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Alistair Webb** / Author **Phil Roberts** / Fieldwork **Nick Hannon, Phil Roberts** / Graphics **Rafael Maya-Torcelly**

Approved by **Alistair Webb**



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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of strip foundations for four house plots at Vicarage Lane, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire. The monitoring recorded the same series of deposits in each plot comprising a sequence of crushed building rubble (from the demolition of former farm outbuildings) overlying natural clay. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were present.

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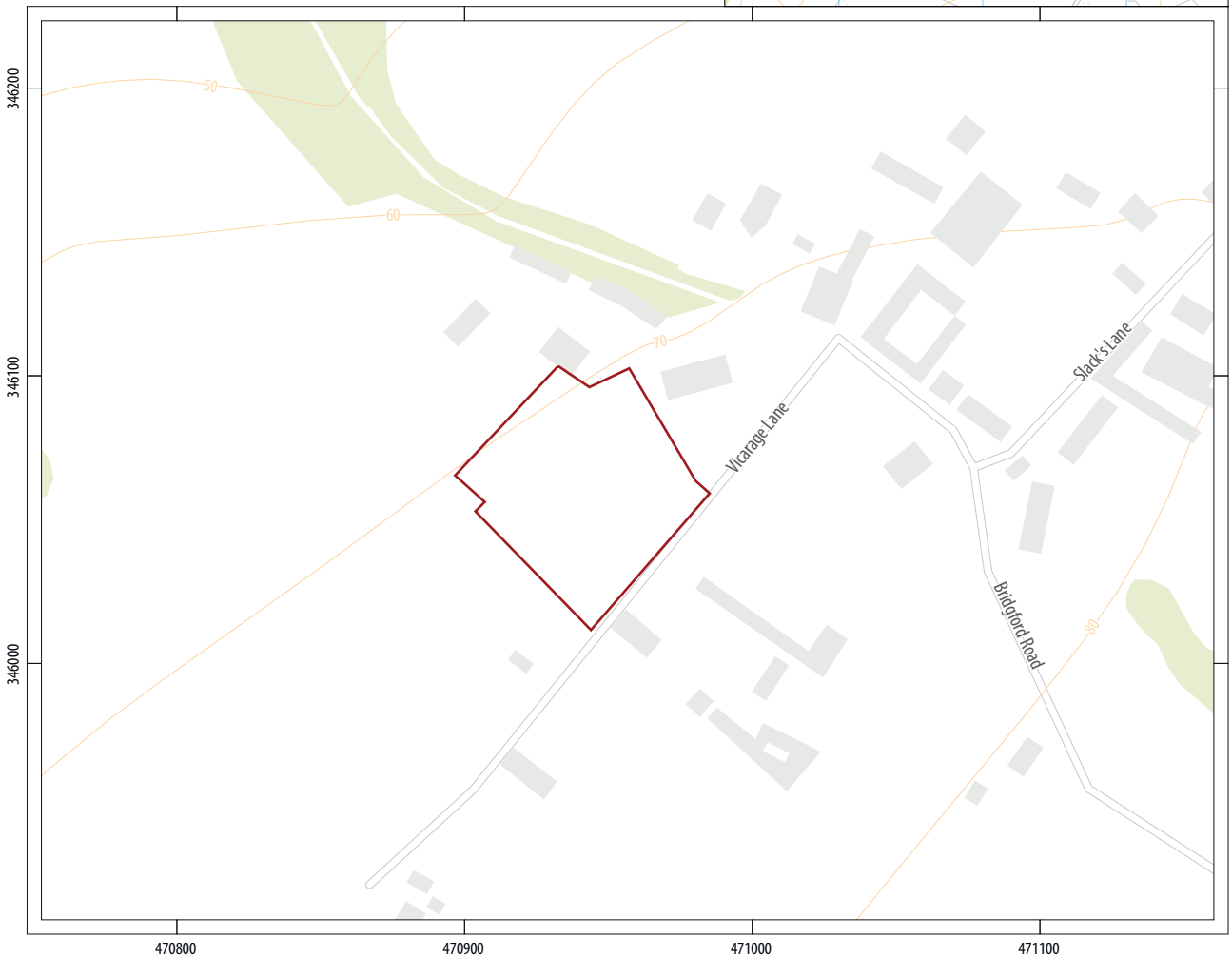
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Land at Vicarage Lane  
Kneeton  
Nottinghamshire



0 200km  
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 50m  
1:2,500 @ A4

 development boundary



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ILLUS 1 Site location



# VICARAGE LANE, KNEETON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Lowe Construct and Build Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a residential development on land at Vicarage Lane, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire. The programme of works involved the monitoring of the excavation of foundations for four housing plots and was carried out intermittently between June 2019 and June 2020.

The development involved the proposed change of use from agriculture to residential use through the conversion of existing agricultural buildings and the construction of new buildings to form four new dwellings. Rushworth Borough Council (RBC) granted permission for the proposals (Ref. No. 15/01668/FUL) subject to 12 conditions. Condition 4 addressed archaeology and required the developer to have approved by the Borough Council a programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) during any construction or excavation work prior to or during the development.

All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Webb 2016) which was approved by the Nottinghamshire County Council Planning Archaeologist and conforms with current industry best practices (Cifa 2014 a, b & c, updated 2020).

#### 1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION (LOCATION AND GEOLOGY)

The area of archaeological comprises of a farmyard with outbuildings immediately south of St Helens Church, off Vicarage Lane, Kneeton,

Nottinghamshire. The site is surrounded by agricultural land, with the River Trent approximately 700m west and the A46 Fosse Way approximately 2km to the east (Illus 1 and 2).

The bedrock geology of the site was identified as Edwalton Member – Siltstone, Dolomitic, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 228 to 237 million years ago in the Triassic Period in an environment previously dominated by hot deserts (NERC 2020).

#### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

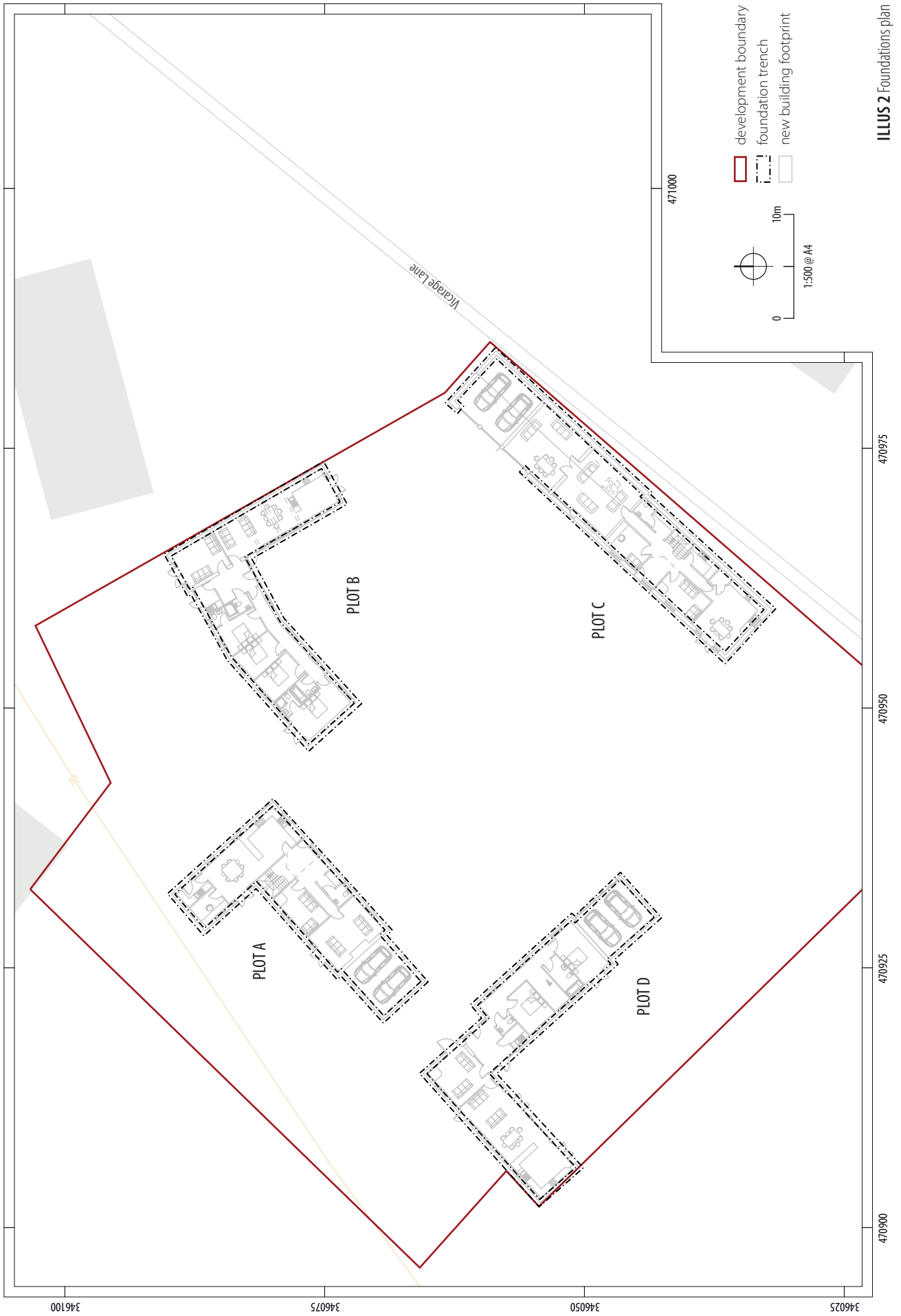
There are no known heritage assets within the site. However, Kneeton is recorded in Domesday and so the potential for medieval remains cannot be discounted. Fosse Way (A46) also runs just to the east of the village so Roman activity in the area would not be unusual.

### 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the investigation was to record and enhance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost. This would be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation include;

- › Establishing the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- › Establishing the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;



ILLUS 2 Foundations plan



**ILLUS 3** Pre-excavation view of site showing overburden (01001) facing south-west

- › Establishing the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features across the site; and
- › Securing, where appropriate, the assessment, analysis, conservation, and long-term storage of any artefactual/ ecofactual material recovered from the site.

General guidance relating to evaluation, recording, report preparation and archiving include that prepared by English Heritage (2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a–c, updated 2020).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION

A programme of intermittent and continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during intrusive groundworks associated with the site preparation works, followed by the investigation and recording of any archaeological features or remains that were revealed. Headland Archaeology liaised with the principal contractor during the duration of the project to ensure the required cover was in place.

All intrusive groundworks which formed part of the site preparation works was subject to the archaeological watching brief and comprised the excavation of foundation footings by a 6.5tn mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket and pecker when required.

### 3.2 RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs (2014c, updated 2020) and the WSI (Webb 2016). All contexts were given unique numbers and recorded on pro-forma record cards. Digital images were taken with a clearly visible metric scale for illustrative purposes and the archive. A site plan including the areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded digitally. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to AOD. All digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1 and a full photographic register is presented in Appendix 2. Contexts are identified numerically in sequence (ie (01001), (01002)) with deposits indicated 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.





**ILLUS 4** General shot of Plot 1 facing south    **ILLUS 5** West facing representative section of Plot 1

This structure reflects adherence to the ClfA guidance on report production, which states that *'descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements'* (ClfA 2014a, 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'* (ClfA 2014a, 14, Section 5).

## 5 DISCUSSION

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation footings for four residential dwellings; Plot 1, 2, 3 and 4 within a farmyard (Illus 3–7). The stratigraphy was largely consistent across the farmyard and each individual plot and will be discussed below.

Almost the entirety of the development area was covered in overburden (01001), a demolition rubble deposit which contained red brick and concrete fragments and measured 0.34m to 0.44m in thickness. This deposit comprised debris from the demolition of farm buildings, which existed on site prior to groundworks beginning, and was used to level the site. This lay on top of (01002) a firm and plastic pink red clay natural which was excavated to a maximum thickness of 0.66m.





**ILLUS 6** General shot of Plot 4 facing north-east **ILLUS 7** North-west facing representative section of Plot 4



Deposit (01003) was only found in Plot 2 in place of (01001) and consisted of a mid grey black sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small to medium sub angular stones. This also was interpreted as a made ground deposit and was 0.5m thick.

A concrete floor surface [01004] was present in Plot 4 at a depth of 0.8m below the current ground surface. This was the floor of the farm buildings that had been demolished prior to the beginning of groundworks.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present in the foundation footings of any of the four house plots that were monitored during the watching brief.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The excavation of the foundation trenches for the four residential dwellings uncovered a sequence of made ground deposits directly overlaying reddish pink natural clay. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in any of the foundation trenches.

## 7 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 7th July 2020

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](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIFAS&GArchives_2.pdf) accessed 7th July 2020

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](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf) accessed 7th July 2020

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2020 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 7th July 2020

Webb A 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Vicarage Lane, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire* [unpublished client report] Headland Archaeology ref: VLKN16-001

## 8 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

CONTEXT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTIVE INT	THICKNESS
01001	Deposit	Demolition rubble	Deposit of rubble from demolition of buildings prior to work starting. Deposit then spread across site to provide firm, solid surface for plant movement.	0.34m
01002	Deposit	Natural clay	Pinkish-red clay. Firm, sticky, plastic. No inclusions. Present in all plots.	0.60m (Plot 4)
01003	Deposit	Topsoil/made ground?	Mid-grey-black sandy clay (ratio approx. 1:9). Firm and sticky. Occ Charcoal flecks and small-med subangular stones. Only present in Plot 2. Poss topsoil or made ground.	0.50m
01004	Structure	Concrete slab	Concrete floor remains of now-demolished agricultural building. Covered with (01001) made ground. Sits on (01002) natural. Depth BGL 0.4m without (01001), 0.8m width.	Unexcavated

#### Appendix 1.2 Photo register

PHOTO	DIGITAL	FACING	DESCRIPTION
001	100-0135	N/A	ID shot
002	100-0136	SW	General site shot
003	100-0137	NW	General site shot
004	100-0138	NE	Shot of extant barn which will be converted
005	100-0139	SW	Working shot
006	100-0140	SE	Working shot
007	100-0141	SE	Extant barn, Plot 2
008	100-0142	NE	Extant barn, Plot 2
009	100-0143	E	1m rep. section of foundation trench, Plot 1
010	100-0144	E	1m rep. section of foundation trench, Plot 1
011	100-0145	S	General shot Plot 1 fully excavated
012	100-0146	NW	SE-facing 1m rep. section Plot 2
013	100-0147	SW	General shot Plot 2 fully excavated
014	100-0148	SW	General shot Plot 2 fully excavated
015	100-0233	N/A	New ID shot (new camera)
016	100-0234	N/A	Working shot of slab removal, Plot 4
017	100-0235	N/A	Working shot of slab removal, Plot 4
018	100-0236	N/A	Working shot of slab removal, Plot 4
019	100-0237	N/A	Working shot of slab removal, Plot 4
020	100-0238	SE	General shot of topsoil stripping
021	100-0239	SW	General shot of foundation trench being excavated
022	100-0240	NE	General shot of foundation trench
023	100-0241	W	Topsoil/overburden removal
024	100-0242	SW	Topsoil/overburden removal
025	100-0243	SE	NW-facing 1m rep. section of foundation trench, Plot 4
026	100-0244	SE	NW-facing 1m rep. section of foundation trench, Plot 4
027	100-0245	–	General shot of Plot 4 fully excavated
028	100-0246	–	General shot of Plot 4 fully excavated
029	100-0247	–	General shot of Plot 4 fully excavated

## APPENDIX 2 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: *headland5-399832***PROJECT DETAILS**

Project name	Vicarage Lane, Kneeton
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of strip foundations for four house plots at Vicarage Lane, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire. The monitoring recorded the same series of deposits in each plot comprising a sequence of crushed building rubble (from the demolition of former farm outbuildings) overlying natural clay. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were present.
Project dates	Start: 01-06-2020 End: 30-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	VLKN19 – Contracting Unit No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	None
Significant Finds	None
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Country	England
Site location	Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe, Kneeton; Vicarage Lane, Kneeton
Postcode	NG13 8JQ
Study area	4000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 70941 46074 53.006964139466 -0.942631889183 53 00 25 N 000 56 33 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 70m Max: 75m

**PROJECT CREATORS**

Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology
Project brief originator	Headland Archaeology
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology
Project director/manager	Alistair Webb
Project supervisor	Phil Roberts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lowe Construct and Build Ltd

**PROJECT ARCHIVES**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Nottinghamshire
Paper Contents	'None'
Paper Media available	'Report'



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**PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1**

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Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Vicarage Road, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire; Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Phil Roberts
Other bibliographic details	None
Date	2020
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