



Hall Gardens, Hickleton, Doncaster South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr J Deerin to carry out an archaeological watching brief in advance of demolition, construction and landscaping work at Hall Gardens, Hickleton Road, Hickleton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (centred on National Grid Reference 448427 404806).

The watching brief was carried out to satisfy a condition of planning permission granted by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council for archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed re-development. The re-development comprised the replacement of most, if not all, of the recent stable structure built to the north of the garden wall, together with associated excavation for services and drains along with landscaping works.

Fieldwork was carried out on 24th April 2018. Four separate areas were set out for the excavation of wall foundations, landscaping and drainage. In all excavation areas it was found that recently disturbed made-ground overlaid the natural sandy clay geology. No archaeological features or significant finds were encountered.

The foundations of the northern wall of the kitchen garden were exposed during the ground works, which consisted of up to four courses of hewn Magnesian limestone blocks. Furthermore, sockets of floor joists were identified above the foundation which appear to relate to the floor of a former glass house of the first quarter of the 20th century.

Whilst the excavated areas were found to be archaeologically sterile it is significant that no evidence of building (other than the standing garden walls) was located.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under site code 112151. The site falls within the collecting area of Doncaster Museum. The museum is not currently accepting archaeological archives. Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive in the interim period. An OASIS record, wessexar1-240911, has been completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr J Deerin for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Andrew Lines, Archaeologist at South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, and to Mr J Deerin and team for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Andy Swann. This report was written by Andy Swann and Alvaro Mora-Ottomano and edited by Richard O'Neill. The project was managed by Richard O'Neill on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Hall Gardens, Hickleton Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr J Deerin (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological watching brief in advance of demolition, construction and landscaping work at Hall Gardens, Hickleton Road, Hickleton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 448427 404806 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out to satisfy a condition of planning permission (reference 12/03106/FUL) granted by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) for archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed re-development. The re-development comprised the replacement of most, if not all, of the recent stable structure built to the north of the garden wall, together with associated excavation for services and drains along with landscaping works.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2018) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed Wessex Archaeology. The WSI was submitted to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), on behalf of DMBC, prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on 24th April 2018.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site is approximately 332 sqm in size and is located approximately 0.6 km south-east of the village of Hickleton, and approximately 9.5 km west of the city of Doncaster.

1.3.2 The Site lies at approximately 113 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is underlain by a solid geology consisting of Dolostone of the Cadeby Formation (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary of the archaeological and historical background of the Site and the surrounding area is based of material available online from Heritage Gateway and other sources.



2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric and Romano-British

2.2.1 The Site and the surrounding area are part of an extensive prehistoric and Romano-British landscape. Within a 1 km radius of the Site lies evidence of numerous enclosures, field systems, trackways and other features dating to these periods. Many of these features have been identified through cropmarks on aerial photographs which are often particularly well defined due to the excellent conditions for cropmark visibility on the Cadeby Formation. In addition, the surrounding landscape has been subject to intensive archaeological investigations, both intrusive and non-intrusive, as part of the Brodsworth Archaeology Project (University of Sheffield 2015).

2.2.2 In addition, numerous artefacts dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods have also been recovered as stray finds. These include Mesolithic flint flakes and a barbed and tanged arrowhead along with various examples of Romano-British pottery.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.2.3 Hickleton is noted as a medium sized settlement in the Domesday Book indicating its establishment prior to the Norman Conquest in 1066. Within the surrounding area of the Site, two Anglo-Saxon coins have been found. One has been dated to c. AD 690, which was identified as being of very early Kentish/Thames Valley type, while the other was of 10th century origin.

2.2.4 Within the surrounding area of the Site lies the location of a former motte and bailey castle. This area has since been quarried, however, a sketch from 1630 shows the outlines of the castle's earthworks were still visible at this time.

2.2.5 The Grade I Listed Church of St Wilfred is located within the settlement of Hickleton approximately 385 m north-west of the Site which was constructed in the 12th century while medieval pottery has also been recovered within the surround area of the Site.

Post-medieval, 19th century and modern

2.2.6 There are 27 further Listed Buildings within the surrounding area of the Site which trace their origins to these periods. This includes the Grade II* Listed Hickleton Hall, which was constructed in between 1745-48 for Godfrey Wentworth, and a series of associated buildings that includes its Grade II* Listed stables and several Grade II Listed features within the hall's gardens.

2.2.7 The gardens are designated as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden and were primarily laid out in the early 20th century by Lord Halifax. The Site is included within the boundary of the registered park as is the mid-19th century kitchen garden which lies immediately adjacent to Site whose wall forms part of the proposed development. The Design and Conservation Officer from DMBC notes the Site can be '...formally considered to be an integral part of the Registered Park or Garden, rather than a structure coincidentally within it' (Codling 2015).

2.2.8 The construction of the stables and domestic conversions of existing stone buildings to the northern side of mid-19th century kitchen gardens was implemented in the 1980s.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and as defined in the ClfA' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- 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 the development or other 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 to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- 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; including
 - *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
 - *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
 - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
 - *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
 - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- 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 to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.



4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundworks and ground reduction, including service runs. The watching brief was undertaken by a single experienced archaeologist. The mechanical excavation was, where possible, undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology.
- 4.2.2 Trenches had been laid out in advance and marked on the ground with spray paint. A cable avoidance tool was used to check all areas of excavation for services. No live cables or pipes were located.
- 4.2.3 Excavation was carried out using a small rubber-tracked machine with 360-degree movement fitted with a small ditching bucket. Excavated areas were squared up and finished by hand.

Recording

- 4.2.4 A full written and photographic record was made of all excavations using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 No specialist strategies were employed as no archaeological deposits or features were observed and the only finds encountered were of very recent date.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and descriptions within each trench contained in Appendix 1. Four trenches were monitored during the groundworks whose location is shown on plan (**Figure 1**). The trenches were excavated within the entrance's drive way, a courtyard with stable blocks and a trapezoidal kitchen garden immediately to the east of the main rectangular kitchen garden with curved northern corners of the Hall Gardens (**Plates 1 – 3**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence observed in all excavated trenches consisted of various made-ground layers with an overall thickness of 0.4 m which in turn overlay the natural geology.
- 5.2.2 The undisturbed natural geological sub-stratum, composed of brown sandy clay with occasional Magnesian limestone rubble, was established in all excavated trenches at depths varying from 0.4 m to 0.6 m below ground level (bgl) at an overall height of 112.5 m aOD.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was located to the west of the northernmost gate pier of the entrance off Hickleton Road leading to a drive way with a thin hardcore surface and grass. This vehicular entrance and associated track way is shown on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps dating from the mid-19th century onwards. This trench was excavated to reposition the existing gate pier. It measured 3 m in length, with a width varying from 0.70 m to 0.90 m, and a depth of 0.50 m. The stratigraphy consisted of a thin layer of hardcore which overlay a made-ground layer, composed of brown sandy clay, which in turn overlay the natural sub-stratum whose



undisturbed horizon was established at 0.4 m bgl. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified. The gate pier was built with roughly hewn Magnesian limestone blocks laid in snecked bond. The pier appears to have been built in modern times utilising reclaimed masonry. The exposed foundations observed during the excavation consisted of an equivalent construction (**Plate 4**).

5.4 Trench 2

5.4.1 Trench 2 was located a short distance to the south of Trench 1 in order to relocate another gate pier. This trench, however, only consisted of a square pit measuring 0.9 m x 0.9 m with a depth of 0.5 m. The trench was slightly moved to the south to avoid a live water duct with a cast-iron stop-cock cover (**Plate 5**). The stratigraphy was comparable to Trench 1 and devoid of any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

5.5 Trench 3

5.5.1 Trench 3 was located within the stable courtyard designed as a foundation trench for a proposed new wall extending from the Hickleton Road boundary wall to a stable block to the west (**Plates 6 and 7**). The stable block appears to have been built in the first quarter of the 20th century as indicated by cartographic records. This trench measured 15 m in length, 0.6 m in width and 0.55 m in depth. The stratigraphic sequence was comparable to the one observed in Trenches 1 and 2 composed of a hardcore thin layer over a sandy clay made ground with a thickness of 0.25 m which in turn overlay the natural substratum established at 0.35 m bgl. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified.

5.6 Trench 4

5.6.1 Trench 4 was located within the eastern trapezoidal kitchen garden of Hall Gardens consisting of a larger area excavated against the south face of the northern wall which separated the kitchen garden and the stable courtyard to the north. This area measured 30 m in length extending throughout the entire northern wall. The width of the trench varied from 1m within the western section and 2 m within the eastern section, and the overall depth reached 0.7 m (**Plates 8 and 9**). Towards the eastern end of the trench, a perpendicular slit trench of 10 m in length and 0.5 m in width was excavated southwards to terminate with a soak-away pit (**Plate 10**). Incidentally, an earlier steel soak-away tank of possible mid-20th century was encountered at this point (**Plate 11**).

5.6.2 The stratigraphy consisted of a made-ground layer, composed of sandy clay with modern debris including brick and stone fragments, as well as glass, tins and plastic, all of relatively modern date which were not retrieved as they did not warrant further study. The undisturbed horizon of the natural sub-stratum was established at 0.6 m bgl.

5.6.3 The northern wall of the mid-19th century trapezoidal kitchen garden was built with an internal skin of bricks and an external skin of coursed Magnesian limestone. This configuration is also perceivable within the construction of the main rectangular walled kitchen garden immediately to the west. The northern wall contains a central doorway with stone jambs matching the outer stone. The doorway appears to be an original feature as indicated by the 1892 OS map (not reproduced) which depicts a path leading to such an entrance.

5.6.4 The excavation against the northern wall revealed up to four regularly laid courses of hewn Magnesian limestone blocks corresponding to the original foundation of the stone and brick-lined wall. The south face of this wall encompassed remnants of lime-washed brickwork indicative of a former lean-to structure. Cartographic records indicate that a glass house was added against the wall in the first quarter of the 20th century as seen on the 1930 OS



map (not reproduced). The aforementioned map also illustrates two outbuildings immediately to the north of the glass house one of which may have acted as a furnace house providing heat to the glasshouse through flues which would have aided the growing of fruits and other exotic plants. Although no evidence of heating ducts was identified, a series of sockets inserted within the brickwork and positioned above the foundation wall was noticed. The sockets would have housed timber floor joists of the former glass house, one of which retained remnants of a rotten joist (**Plate 9**).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 In all excavation areas it was found that recently disturbed made-ground overlaid the natural sandy clay geology. No archaeological features, deposits or significant artefacts were identified.
- 6.1.2 The foundations of the northern wall of the kitchen garden were exposed during the ground works, which consisted of up to four courses of hewn Magnesian limestone blocks. Furthermore, sockets of floor joists were identified above the foundation which appear to relate to the floor of a former glass house of the first quarter of the 20th century.
- 6.1.3 Whilst the excavated areas were found to be archaeologically sterile it is significant that no evidence of building (other than the standing garden walls) was located.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under site code 112151. The site falls within the collecting area of Doncaster Museum. The museum is not currently accepting archaeological archives. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive. An OASIS record, wessexar1-240911, has been completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

7.2 Preparation of the archive

- 7.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Doncaster Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.3 Selection policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). No artefacts were retrieved as the only finds encountered were of relatively modern date with did not warrant further study.

7.4 Security copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital



preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8 OASIS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated (**wessexar1-240911**) and will be finalised at the time of deposition. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with SYAS Sites and Monuments Record where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

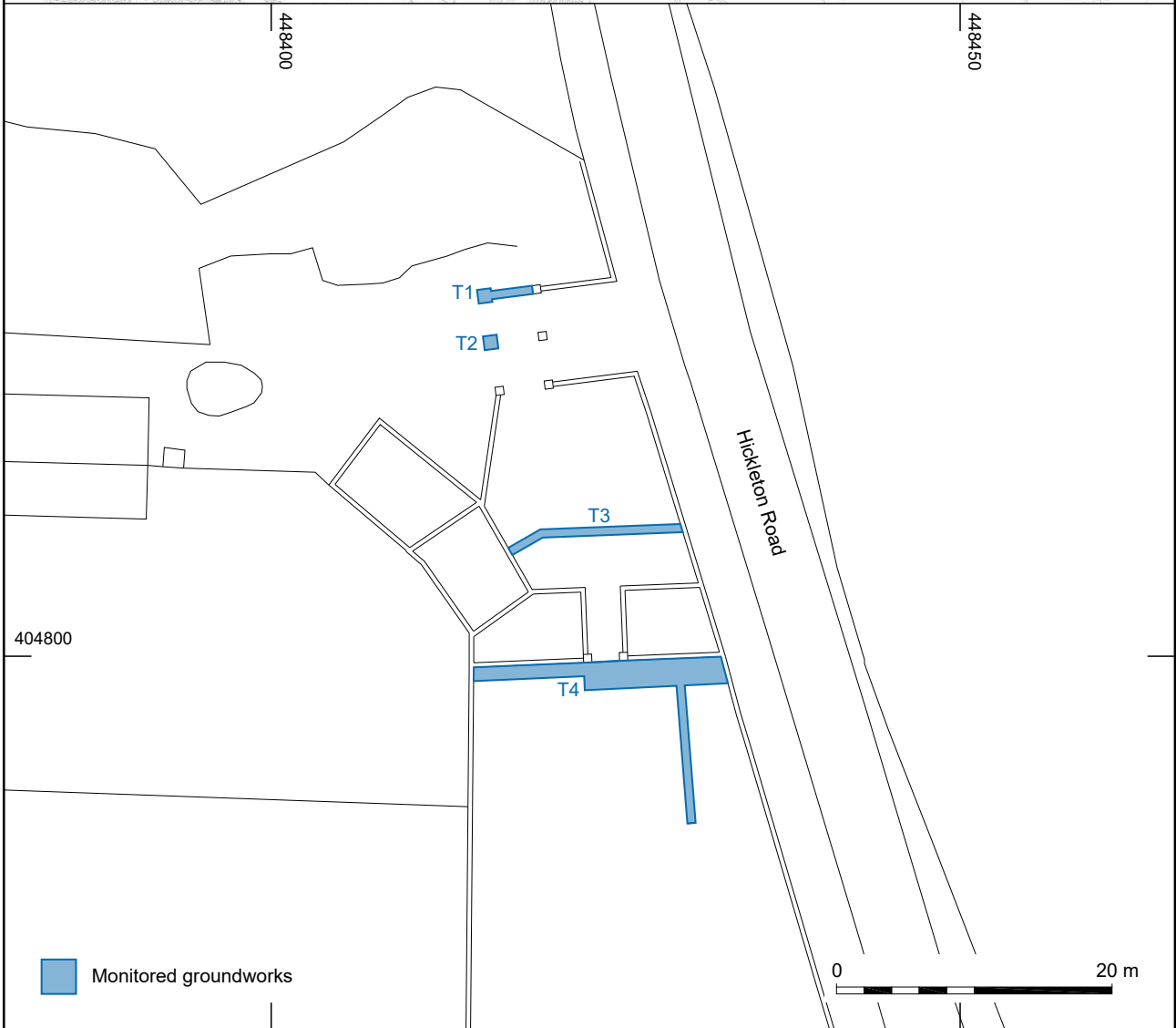
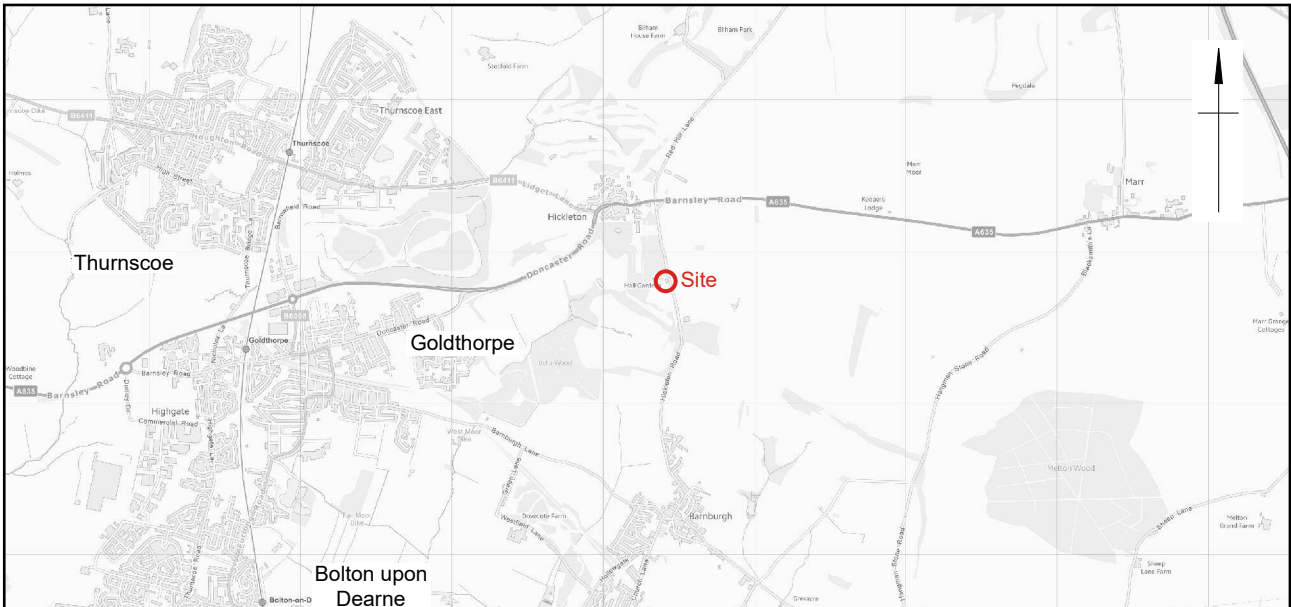
Appendix 1: Context summary by trench


| Trench 1 | Description: | Dimensions: 3.00mx0.70/90m |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: |
| 101 | Redeposited fine limestone hardcore | 0.00-0.18m |
| 102 | Redeposited brown sandy clay | 0.18-0.40m |
| 103 | Brown/ginger sandy clay. Natural | 0.40-0.50m+ |

| Trench 2 | Description: | Dimensions: 0.90mx0.90m |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: |
| 201 | Redeposited fine limestone hardcore | 0.00-0.16m |
| 202 | Broken Tarmac. Substrate | 0.16-0.25m |
| 203 | Redeposited brown sandy clay and rubble | 0.25-0.40m |
| 204 | Brown/ginger sandy clay. Natural | 0.40-0.50m+ |

| Trench 3 | Description: | Dimensions: 15.00mx0.60m |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: |
| 301 | Redeposited fine limestone hardcore | 0.00-0.10m |
| 302 | Redeposited brown sandy clay with shell | 0.10-0.25m |
| 303 | Redeposited dirty brown sandy clay | 0.25-0.35m |
| 304 | Brown/ginger sandy clay. Natural | 0.35-0.45m |
| 305 | Brown sandy clay and limestone. Natural | 0.45-0.55m+ |

| Trench 4 | Description: | Dimensions: 30.00m+x2.00m |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: |
| 401 | Dirty brown sand with rubbish. Redeposited | 0.00-0.60m |
| 402 | Brown/ginger sandy clay. Natural | 0.60-0.70m+ |



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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: The south face of the northern garden wall



Plate 2: Late 20th century stables facing an open yard


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Plate 3: Stables curving round the outside of the garden wall



Plate 4: Trench 1, showing the stone pier due to be re-sited


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Plate 5: Trench 2, the excavation for the re-siting of the second stone pier



Plate 6: Trench 3, foundation trench extending to the eastern boundary wall


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Plate 7: Trench 3, foundation trench extending to the western stable range



Plate 8: Trench 4, landscaping adjacent to the north garden wall


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Plate 9: Trench 4, adjacent to the garden wall, facing the north-east corner



Plate 10: Trench 4, showing the excavation of the north-south pipe trench



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Plate 11: Trench 4, the re-discovered steel soak-away tank

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