
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**OVERSTONE HOUSE, 112 KETTERING ROAD
MARKET HARBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors:	Samuel Egan (Fieldwork and report) Antony Mustchin MSc (Editor)	
Illustrations:	Kathren Henry	
NGR: SP 7485 8660		Report No: 4274
District: Harborough		Site Code: AS1570
Approved: C Halpin MIfA		Project No: 4480
Signed:		Date: March 2013 Revised: 03/06/2013

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission. Unauthorised copying, reproduction or distribution to other parties will constitute a breach of copyright and is prohibited.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
Tel 01992 558170

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 THE EVIDENCE**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 5 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 6 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 7 DISCUSSION**
- 8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Overstone House, 112 Kettering Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Overstone House, 112 Kettering Road, Leicestershire (NGR SP 7485 8660; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by DLA Planning Ltd on behalf of the Owners of Overstone House and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to outline planning approval. It is proposed to demolish the existing building and erect 50 dwellings, create the provision of public open space and construction of new access (Planning Ref. 12/00806/OUT).</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated on the slope of a clay ridge overlooking the River Jordan. Archaeological investigations close by have recorded evidence for an extensive Roman enclosure system, including two inhumation burials and pits containing domestic waste. Also revealed during these earlier excavations were a potential prehistoric pit alignment, isolated Anglo-Saxon pits and medieval ridge and furrow. Much of the land surrounding Market Harborough has been agricultural since the medieval period.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed traces of ridge and furrow cultivation generally in the southern half of the site (Trenches 10-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-22) and a residual struck flint from modern Made Ground L1001. The struck flint is a backed knife of earlier Neolithic date.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	March 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4480	Site code	AS1570
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Domestic residential/ garden and pasture		
Planned development	Residential development		
Main features (+dates)	Ridge and furrow		
Significant finds (+dates)	1 residual struck flint (backed knife of earlier Neolithic date)		
Project location			
County/ District/Ward	Leicestershire	Harborough	Market Harborough
HER for area	Leicestershire and Rutland County Historic Environment Record (HER)		
Post code (if known)	LE16 8AW (Overstone House)		
Area of site	c. 3ha		
NGR	SP7475 8640		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 89/112m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Advice: Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (LCC PA)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Owners of Overstone House		
Full title	Overstone House, 112 Kettering Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
Authors	Egan, S. (Edited by A. Mustchin MSc)		
Report no.	4274		
Date (of report)	February 2013 (Revised 03/06/2013)		

OVERSTONE HOUSE, 112 KETTERING ROAD, MARKET HARBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Overstone House, 112 Kettering Road, Leicestershire (NGR SP 7485 8660; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by DLA Planning Ltd on behalf of the Owners of Overstone House and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to outline planning approval. It is proposed to demolish the existing building and erect 50 dwellings, create the provision of public open space and construction of new access (Planning Ref. 12/00806/OUT).

The site is situated on the slope of a clay ridge overlooking the River Jordan. Archaeological investigations close by have recorded evidence for an extensive Roman enclosure system, including two inhumation burials and pits containing domestic waste. Also revealed during these earlier excavations were a potential prehistoric pit alignment, isolated Anglo-Saxon pits and medieval ridge and furrow. Much of the land surrounding Market Harborough has been agricultural since the medieval period.

In the event the evaluation revealed traces of ridge and furrow cultivation generally in the southern half of the site (Trenches 10-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-22) and a residual struck flint from modern Made Ground L1001. The struck flint is a backed knife of earlier Neolithic date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Overstone House, 112 Kettering Road, Leicestershire (NGR SP 7485 8660; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by DLA Planning Ltd on behalf of the Owners of Overstone House and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to outline planning approval. It is proposed to demolish the existing building and erect 50 dwellings, create the provision of public open space and construction of new access (Planning Ref. 12/00806/OUT).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by AS (dated 8th January 2013), approved by Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (LCC PA). The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present,
- to provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present,
- the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region; and
- the recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

1.6 Local Plan Policy EV/5 states that development will be strictly controlled in countryside (in which the site is classified) and that proposals will normally be refused, however material considerations attached to this proposal and appeals associated with nearby planning applications, may have sufficient weight to justify exceptions to this policy (DLA June 2011). Criterion 7 of Local Plan Policy EV/5 requires that the development not adversely affect areas of archaeological significance, and this evaluation is designed to help identify appropriate mitigation and compensation methods.

2 THE EVIDENCE

2.1 Description of the Site

2.1.1 The town of Market Harborough is located within the district of Harborough, Leicestershire c.22km to the south-east of Leicester and c.16km to the north-west of Kettering. The site is located c.1.5km from the centre of Market Harborough on the eastern edge of the historic village of Little Bowden, now effectively the south-eastern part of the town.

2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

2.2.1 The site is situated on the southern slope of the western end of a natural ridge, aligned approximately east/west. In the wider landscape the natural ridge continues eastwards generally cresting above c.140m AOD, with a Trig Point located just to the north-east of the site at 131m AOD. The ridge and the site overlook the valleys of the Rivers Welland and Jordan, which confluence c.800m to the north-west of the site. The River Jordan passes c.200m to the south of the site, and the River Welland c.800m to the north-west.

2.2.2 The solid geology of the site comprises the Lias Group of mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. Locally this comprises a mottled grey to orange-brown Lias Clay substrate overlying Whitby Mudstone. River gravels comprising loams, silts and bands of gravel are present closer to the Rivers Welland and Jordan and may be present under the southern edge of the site. Archaeological investigations close by encountered the natural of mudstone and clay between 0.2-0.5m (Clarke 2012, 4), with overlying layers of sandy clay subsoil and topsoil. The natural was recorded as 'light-mid orange or brownish-yellow sandy clay with occasional angular to sub-angular pebbles.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by AS (Peachey 2011).

In summary:

The site is located on the upper slopes of a clay ridge overlooking the rivers Welland and Jordan, on which archaeological investigations have recovered evidence suggesting Neolithic to Bronze Age and Roman activity and occupation. Finds have included prehistoric flintwork, Roman pottery, coins, metal objects and glass. In the medieval period the site was located to the east of the village of Little Bowden in Rockingham Forest. The historic core of the village may have had Anglo-Saxon origins, and indeed was recorded at Domesday, but the site remained east of the settlement area until the 19th century, probably part of medieval agricultural land under ridge and furrow cultivation, a common features of the clay ridge landscape of the Leicestershire vales.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the town of Market Harborough prospered, incorporating the village of Little Bowden as a suburb. Cartographic sources indicate that the site remained as agricultural land until c.1866 when it formed part of the grounds of a mansion called The Barn, built east of the town. The site was contained within the eastern paddock area of The Barn, although some associated stable buildings/enclosures may have extended into the south-western edge of the site. The house was demolished by 1926, and the art-deco style Overstone House was built, with extensive gardens and a swimming pool, little altered to the present day.

Advice from the LCC PA also notes that recent excavations close by to the proposed development site revealed the edge of an area of Romano-British occupation, with a large enclosure ditch containing pits, a possible droveway and two burials, and which may continue into the area of the houses on the Ridgeway and towards Overstone House.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Twenty two trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by CCC HET and targeted those areas impacted by the proposed residential development (Fig. 3). All trenches were 1.8m wide and the majority were 30m in length. Proposed Trench 2 could not be fully excavated due to the occurrence of modern disturbance; on completion trench 2 measured 12m in length. In agreement with the planning archaeologist an additional trench (Tr. 22) was excavated. Trench 22 was 15m long.

3.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2; DPs 1 and 2)

<i>Sample section 1A: south-east end</i> <i>0.00 = 107.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay
0.44 – 0.85m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. Mid greyish blue silty clay with modern debris.
0.85 – 1.06m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, silty clay.
1.06 – 1.25m	L1003	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, silty clay.
1.25m+	L1004	Natural. Pale orange / yellow, blue, compact, silty clay.

<i>Sample section 1B: north-west end</i> <i>0.00 = 106.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.80m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. As above.
0.80 – 0.91m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. As above.
0.91 – 1.16m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
1.16m+	L1004	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2; DP 3)

<i>Sample section 2A: centre</i> <i>0.00 = 110.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.92m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. As above Tr.1.
0.92 – 1.02m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
1.02 – 1.08m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
1.08m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2; DP4)

<i>Sample section 3A: west end</i> <i>0.00 = 110.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.51m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.51m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B: east end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.57m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.57m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2; DP 5)

<i>Sample section 4A: west end</i> <i>0.00 = 108.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.62m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.62m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B: east end</i> <i>0.00 = 110.39m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.46m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.46m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; DP 6)

<i>Sample section 5A: west end</i> <i>0.00 = 110.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.52m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.52m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 5B: east end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.33 – 0.62m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.62m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2; DP 7)

<i>Sample section 6A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 6B : north end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.28m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.62m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.62m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2; DP 8)

<i>Sample section 7A: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 115.39m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 7B: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 117.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.63m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.63m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2; DP 9)

<i>Sample section 8A: west end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.49m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.49m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 8B: east end</i> <i>0.00 = 116.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.41 – 0.69m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.69m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2; DP 10)

<i>Sample section 9A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.31m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 9B: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 111.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.35m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.35m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2; DP 11)

<i>Sample section 10A: north-west end</i> <i>0.00 = 110.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.15 – 0.32m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 10B: south-east end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.02m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.39m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2; DP 12)

<i>Sample section 11A: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 111.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.64m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.64m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 11B: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.44 – 0.66m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.66m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2; DP 13)

<i>Sample section 12A: north-west end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
1.02 – 1.08m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
1.08m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 12B: south-east end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.93m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.41m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 13 (Fig. 2; DP 14)

<i>Sample section 13A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 114.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.39m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 13B: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 115.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.42m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.42+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2; DP 15)

<i>Sample section 14A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 114.67m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.32m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.32m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 14B: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 115.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.34 – 0.51m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.51m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2; DP 16)

<i>Sample section 15A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.29m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.29m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 15B: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.38m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.38m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2; DP 17)

<i>Sample section 16A: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.42m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.42m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 16B: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 115.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.39 – 0.54m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.54m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 17 (Fig. 2; DP 18)

<i>Sample section 17A : east end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.41m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 17B : west end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.41m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.41m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 17 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 18 (Fig. 2; DP 19)

<i>Sample section 18A: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.30m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.30m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 18B: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 18 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 19 (Fig. 2; DP 20)

<i>Sample section 19A: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 111.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.41 – 0.73m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.73m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 19B: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 111.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.34 – 0.61m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.61m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Modern services were encountered running approximately north-west to south-east across the west-south-western half of trench 19. No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2; DP 21)

<i>Sample section 20A: east end</i> <i>0.00 = 114.13m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.45 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 20B: west end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.35m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.35m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 20 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 21 (Fig. 2; DP 22)

<i>Sample section 21A: north end</i> <i>0.00 = 113.48m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.39 – 0.51m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.51m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 21B: south end</i> <i>0.00 = 112.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.45m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.45m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Bar traces of ridge and furrow, Trench 21 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 22 (Fig. 2; DP 23)

<i>Sample section 21A: centre</i> <i>0.00 = 112.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1002	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.37m	L1003	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.47m+	L1004	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Modern services were encountered running approximately north-west to south-east across the centre of trench 22. Traces of ridge and furrow were present in the west-north-western end of this trench.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 Excepting the occurrence of modern disturbance which prevented the full excavation of proposed Trench 2, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1002, a dark greyish brown silty clay. L1002 overlay Subsoil L1003, a mid orange brown, silty clay. Below L1003 was Natural L1004, a pale orange/ yellow, blue, compact, silt clay (0.31 – 1.25m below the present ground surface). Predominantly, L1004 was encountered less than 0.7m below present surface level.

6.2 Traces of ridge and furrow were recorded in 11 of the 22 excavated trenches and were most prolific in the southern part of the site (this area contained evidence of 8/ 9 furrows in total). No other archaeological features were encountered.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 The site is situated on the slope of a clay ridge overlooking the River Jordan. Archaeological investigations close by have recorded evidence for an extensive Roman enclosure system, including two inhumation burials and pits containing domestic waste. Also revealed during these excavations were a potential prehistoric pit alignment, isolated Anglo-Saxon pits and medieval ridge and furrow. Much of the land surrounding Market Harborough has been agricultural since the medieval period.

7.2 In the event the evaluation revealed traces of ridge and furrow cultivation generally in the southern half of the site, and a residual struck flint from modern Made Ground L1001. The struck flint is a backed knife of earlier Neolithic date (Struck Flint report below).

7.3 The term 'ridge and furrow' refers to elongated, narrow soil ridges, often arranged in rectangular 'blocks' and separated by furrows (Rowley 1982, 47). This feature of open agricultural field systems is produced by the action of a 'heavy' plough (*ibid.*) and is predominantly associated with the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The surviving furrows identified in the south of the site (Trenches 13-14, 16-18 and 20-22; Fig. 2) were uniformly orientated (c. west-north-west to east-south-east) and evenly spaced some 7m apart (centre to centre). That identified in Trench 22 did not conform to this spacing however. Bar the latter, it is likely that these furrows formed part of a single, coherent field system. Those identified in Trench 11, towards the western edge of the excavation (Fig. 2), were similarly aligned but spaced only c. 6m apart. The three surviving furrows recorded in Trench 10, towards the north-west of the site (Fig. 2), were aligned differently to their counterparts (c. east to west) and were irregularly spaced; it is likely that they formed part of a system of ridge and furrow that was spatially and/ or temporally distinct from that recorded to the south.

7.4 The variable depth of Natural L1004 below present surface level did not appear to have a bearing on the survival of ridge and furrow. However, those trenches devoid of such evidence were largely restricted to the northern/ north-eastern area of the site (that under pasture), while the trenches containing surviving furrows were largely within the 'formal' garden of Overstone House. It is possible therefore that differences in land use between the northern and southern areas of the site, likely post-dating c. 1866 and the construction of the original house, has resulted in differential preservation of archaeological features.

7.5 The presence of ridge and furrow complements earlier archaeological findings in the landscape surrounding Market Harborough (see Section 2.3), and is in keeping with known agricultural practices in this part of England from the medieval period.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

8.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site with Leicestershire Heritage Services. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) would like to thank the Owners of Overstone House for funding the project their planning consultant, David Lane Associates. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Jennie Lesslie and Mr Alan Clarke.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Richard Clark, Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clarke, J. 2012, *Archaeological evaluation of land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, March 2012*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 12/62

Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) 2008, *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, IfA, Reading

Peachey, A, 2011, *Overstone House, Clack Hill, Market Harborough, Leicestershire. An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, AS Report 3864

Rowley, T. 1982, 'Medieval Field Systems', in Cantor, L. (ed.) *The English Medieval Landscape*, 25-55, Croom Helm, London

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1001		1	Made Ground					Str. Flint (1) - 27g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MIfA

A single piece of struck flint (27g) was recovered from Made Ground L1001 in an unpatinated condition. It comprised a backed knife of earlier Neolithic date, manufactured from orange-brown raw flint with no extant cortex. Parallel dorsal scars and a very small bulb of percussion indicate the approximately rectangular flake was removed from a core reduced using the soft-hammer, blade-technology typical of the earlier Neolithic. The distal end and one lateral edge were then blunted by semi-invasive retouch leaving one straight, sharp lateral edge, which appears to have become moderately worn and chipped through use before being discarded.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1: Trench 1, looking ESE



DP 2: Sample Section 1A, looking NNE



DP 3: Trench 2, looking NNE



DP 4: Trench 3, looking ESE



DP 5: Trench 4, looking ENE



DP 6: Trench 5, looking ENE



DP 7: Trench 6, looking NNE



DP 8: Trench 7, looking SSW



DP 9: Trench 8, looking ESE



DP 10: Trench 9, looking NNE



DP 11: Trench 10, looking NE



DP 12: Trench 11, looking SSW



DP 13: Trench 12, looking NW



DP 14: Trench 13, looking NNE



DP 15: Trench 14, looking N



DP 16: Trench 15, looking SW



DP 17: Trench 16, looking NNE



DP 18: Trench 17, looking WNW



DP 19: Trench 18, looking NNE



DP 20: Trench 19, looking NE



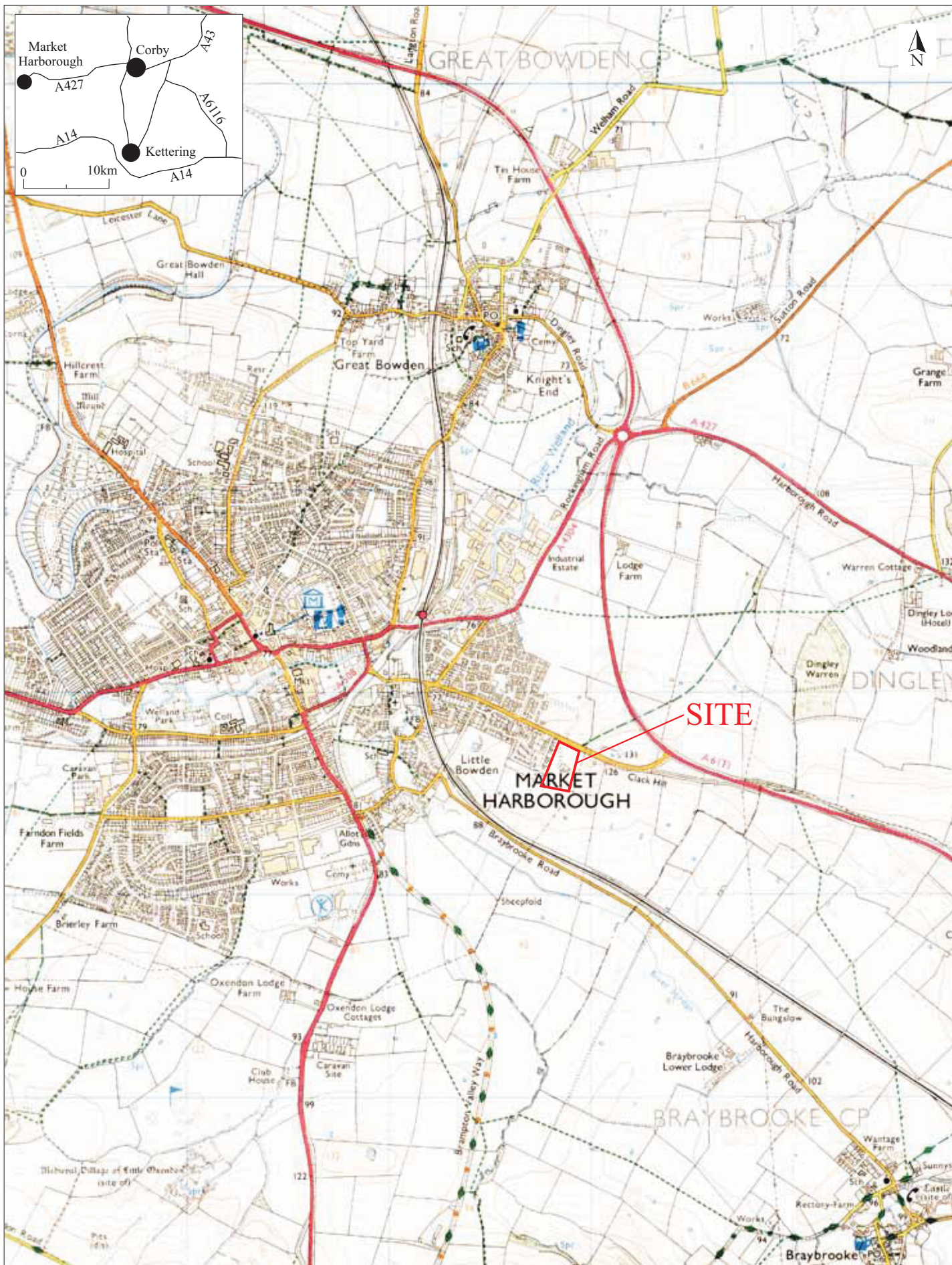
DP 21: Trench 20, looking WNW



DP 22: Trench 21, looking SSW



DP 23: Trench 22, looking WNW



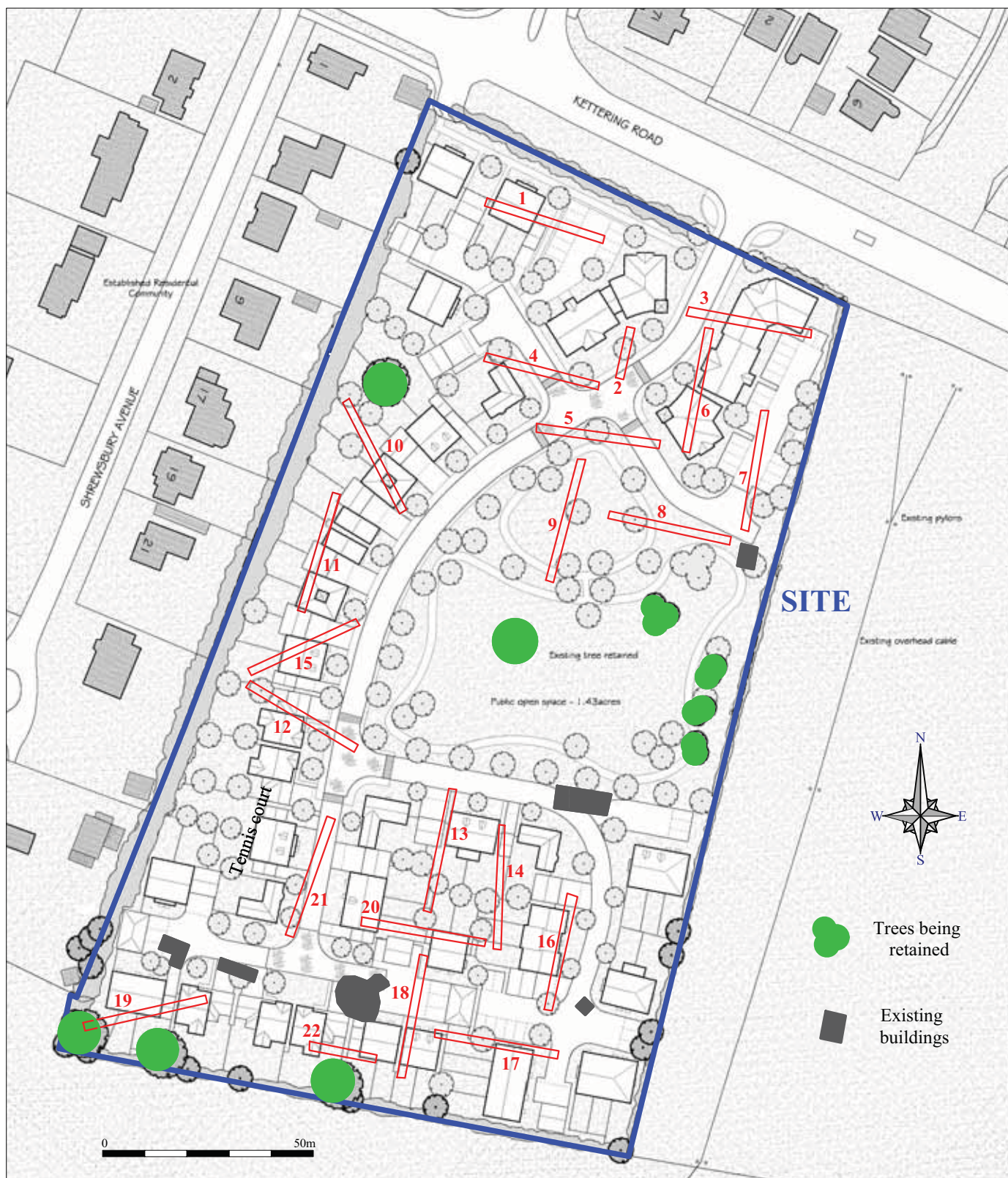
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4