

Archaeological Field Evaluation

Harry's Farm

Stenson Road

Stenson

Derbyshire

DE73 7GB

March 24th 2015



Report Specification:

Compilation:

William Logan BA PgDip

Artwork:

William Logan BA PgDip

Editing:

George Children MA MCIfA

Final Edit & Approval:

Neil Shurety Dip.M G M Inst M

Report Ref:

BA1514HFS

Grid Reference:

NGR: SK 32590 29543

Date:

March 24th 2015

Frontispiece: View west of Trench 1 looking towards Willington Power Station

Border Archaeology Regional Offices

Midlands & North (Head Office)

Chapel Walk, Burgess Street, Leominster,
Herefordshire, HR6 8DE

T: 01568 610101

E: midlandsandnorth@borderarchaeology.com

West & South West

Park House, 10 Park Street, Bristol, BS1 5HX

T: 0117 907 4735

E: westandsouthwest@borderarchaeology.com

East

Luminous House, 300 South Row, Milton Keynes, MK9 2FR

T: 01908 933765

E: east@borderarchaeology.com

South & South East

Basepoint Business Centre, Winnal Valley Road

Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0LD

T: 01962 832777

E: southandsoutheast@borderarchaeology.com

Midlands & North

01568 610101

West & South West

0117 907 4735

East

01908 933765

South & South East

01962 832777

Contents:

1	Executive Summary	1
2	Introduction.....	2
	2.1 Soils & Geology.....	3
3	Brief Historical and Archaeological Background	3
4	Methodology	4
	4.1 Recording.....	4
5	Results	6
	5.1 Trench 1.....	6
	5.2 Trench 2.....	6
	5.3 Trench 3.....	7
	5.4 Trench 4.....	7
	5.5 Trench 5.....	8
6	Conclusion	9
7	Copyright	11
8	Bibliography	12
	8.1 Cartography and Aerial Photography	12

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology was instructed by Edward Mayman Esq. to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation in respect of the proposed construction of two poultry buildings and associated structures on land at Harry's Farm Stenson Road Stenson Derbyshire.

A geophysical survey carried out in 2008 in respect of an earlier planning application for a proposed egg-production unit at the site revealed a number of anomalies, which were interpreted as linear or rectilinear field boundaries within the bounds of the study area.

Five trial trenches were excavated within the footprint for the proposed poultry buildings, three of which were positioned to investigate a possible rectilinear feature identified during the 2008 geophysical survey.

Groundworks revealed a shallow drainage ditch running NNW-SSE within two of the trenches. A fragment of handmade ceramic land drain and a single sherd of 19th –century pottery were recovered from this feature.

Two shallow drains were excavated to the west of this feature and late post-medieval pottery was recovered from one of these, suggesting that they were late 19th -century or modern in date.

In summary, it can be confirmed that no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the archaeological evaluation

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Edward Mayman Esq. to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Harry's Farm Stenson Road Stenson Derbyshire in respect of a planning application (Ref 9/2014/1094) dated 19th February 2015.

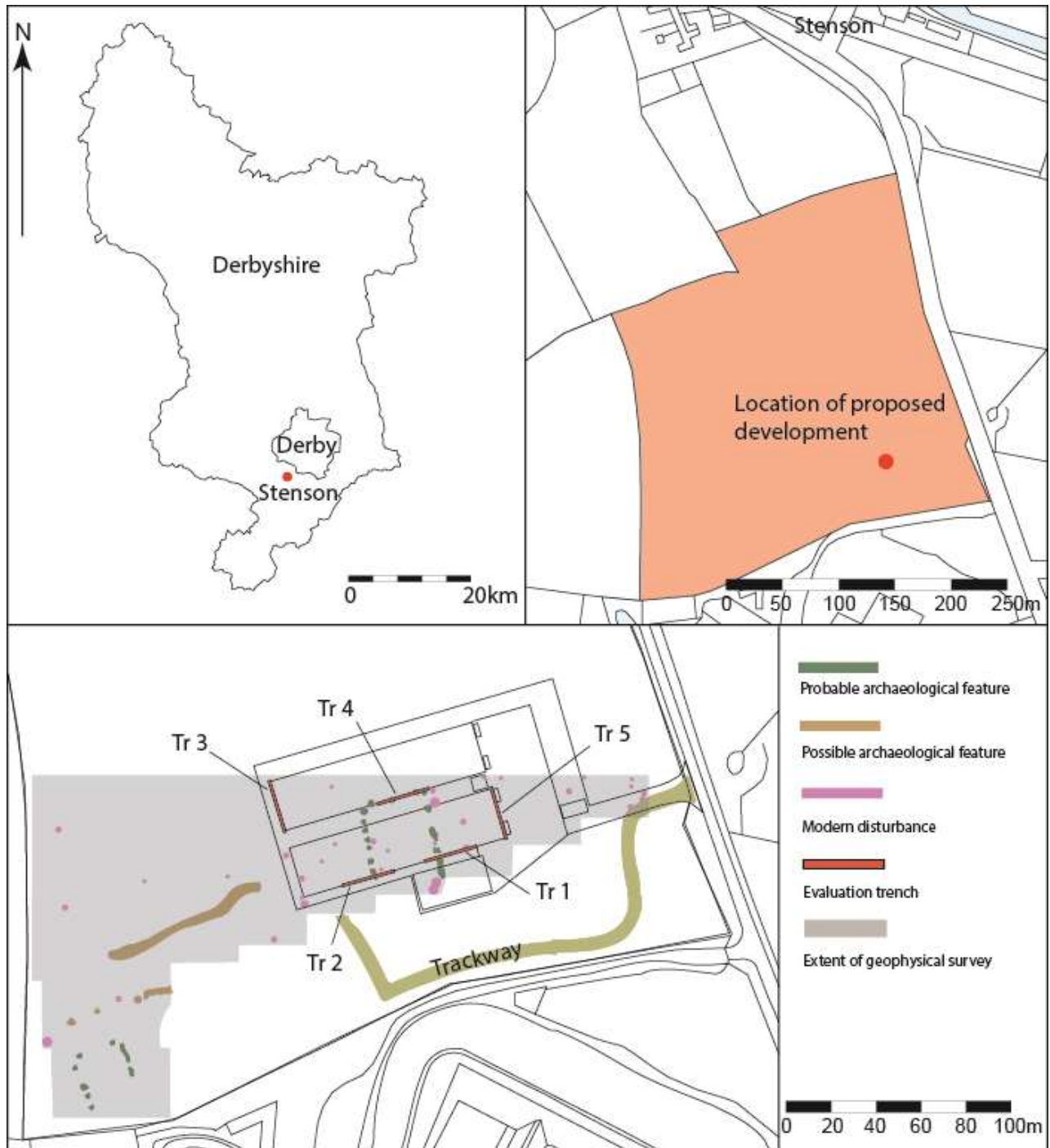


Fig. 1: Plan showing location of trenches within the site

Copies of this report will be submitted to Edward Mayman Esq, Steve Baker Esq Development Control Archaeologist Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record. A digital copy will also be uploaded to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database.

2.1 Soils & Geology

The soils in the area of the development are characterised by glacially derived soils of the ARROW series (543) (SSEW 1983). These consisted of deep permeable coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater, overlying glaciofluvial drift.

3 Brief Historical and Archaeological Background

Recorded prehistoric features in the immediate vicinity of the development area are fairly sparse and derive largely from aerial photographic analysis. Cropmarks identified from aerial photographs approximately 250m SSE of the site were interpreted as a field system and circular enclosure of late Iron Age or early Roman date (HER 27447). There is considerable evidence of prehistoric settlement in the wider vicinity. Lower and middle Paleolithic hand axes (HER 27427) were recovered from gravel pits in the vicinity of Stenson. Beaker coarse ware and later Middle Bronze Age urn sherds were also recovered from gravel extraction sites in the vicinity of Stenson village. A multi-phase Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and part of a *cursus* were excavated close to Potlocks House Farm 1.2km to the SW of the site (SAM 1007024).

There is little Iron Age or Roman archaeology recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area. Late Roman or Iron Age field systems have been tentatively identified at Willington (HER 19901) and Findern (HER 19903). However, there are a number of significant sites in the wider area. An Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was excavated to the NE of Barrow on Trent, approximately 3.5km from the development site (HER 16702). Roman occupation of Derby 8.3km to the NNE began with the construction of a fort at Strutts Park in the mid-1st century, followed by a civilian settlement and the establishment of a new fort located at Little Chester on the E side of the River Derwent during the late 1st century (HER 32523). The fort and the settlement are believed to have been occupied throughout the period, with abandonment occurring during the mid-5th century. A section of Ryknild Street runs NE-SW between Wall and Little Chester, approximately 1.5km to the NW of the site (Margary 1973).

Evidence of post-Roman and medieval occupation in close proximity to the development area is largely agricultural in nature and includes ridge-and-furrow (HER 27431 & HER 27455) located close to the Twyford Brook (to the E and S of the site) and a possible water channel (HER 27451) 200m to the N. A possible deserted medieval village (DMV) was identified on aerial photographs approximately 0.7m to the SE (NMR 1517137).

Features of post-medieval date in the vicinity of the study area include two linear cropmarks interpreted as part of a drove-way 300m to the E (HER 27407) and ridge-and-furrow cultivation features located to the S of Stenson Farm (HER 27431). Lower Farm, located 450m NNW of the site, is a post-medieval farm complex (HER 27436). The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map of 1882 depicts the field comprising the development area as being

subdivided by a drain running N-S across the site. This feature is extant on the Ordnance Survey 1:10000 Map (1988).

The rifle range immediately to the S of the development area was constructed in the early 1990s. Archaeological strip, map and record investigation carried out as part of development on land at Fryzm's House Farm in 2008 in the adjoining field to the W revealed an ephemeral linear feature oriented WSW-ESE. A number of possible features identified on aerial photographs and by geophysical survey were subsequently revealed to be variations in the natural deposition (Cramp 2008).

4 Methodology

The archaeological field evaluation programme was carried out in accordance with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014) and *Management of Archaeological Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (EH 2006), as well as other relevant published sources of technical, professional and ethical guidance. Border Archaeology adheres to the *ClfA Code of Conduct* (2014) and *Regulations for professional conduct* (2015).

Five evaluation trenches were opened, each measuring 25m × 2m. These were located along the line of the foundation courses for the poultry buildings. Trench 1, Trench 2 & Trench 4 were located so as to investigate a rectilinear feature identified during a geophysical survey previously carried out on the site (Morriss & Lewis 2008).

Trenching was opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Poorly stratified topsoil and modern deposits were removed by machine. The characteristics of each archaeological context were defined by hand cleaning.

All spoil and removed material was examined visually and sorted for artefacts. All artefacts were retained.

The aim of the evaluation was to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development and to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

4.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2014). Records included:

- A *pro-forma* context record for each stratigraphic unit

- Plans of excavated areas showing: the extent of the area (tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid), the extent of all stratigraphic units and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units.
- A photographic record of all stratigraphic units, in addition to a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work. The record was made using a high-resolution digital camera and each photograph contained an appropriate scale; all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

5 Results

5.1 Trench 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	101	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown clayey silt, occasional small stones; extends >25m x >2m x 0.45m. Overlies (104)	-	-	-	-	-	
2	102	-	Layer	Natural deposition	Loose light yellowish-brown sand and gravel; extends >25m x >2m x >0.05m. Cut by [103]	-	-	-	-	-	
3	103	-	Cut	Post medieval field boundary ditch	Linear; oriented NNW-SSE; break of slope (top) sharp, sides moderately sloping, break of slope (base) unclear due to groundwater, base flat; extends >2m x 2.2m x 0.5m. Filled by (104) Cuts (102) Same as [403]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
4	104	-	Fill	Modern backfill of ditch [103]	Firm mid greyish-brown silty sand, moderate rounded and sub-rounded stones; extends >2m x 2.2m x 0.5m. Underlies (101) Fills [103]	-	/	-	/	-	C18 handmade land drain fragment

5.2 Trench 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	201	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish-brown clayey silt, occasional small stones; extends >25m x >2m x 0.41m Overlies (204) and (206)	-	-	-	-	-	
2	202	-	Layer	Natural deposition	Loose light yellowish-brown sand & gravel; extends >25m x >2m x 0.08m. Cut by [203] and [205]	-	-	-	-	-	
3	203	-	Cut	Ditch or channel	Linear; oriented NNW-SSE; break of slope (top) sharp, sides moderately sloping, break of slope (base) sharp, base flat;	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
					extends >2m × 0.64m × 0.24m. Filled by (204). Cuts (202)						
4	204	-	Fill	Silting fill of [203]	Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt, occasional small stones; extends >2m × 0.64m × 0.24m. Underlies (201) Fills [203]	-	-	-	-	-	
5	205	-	Cut	Ditch or channel	Linear; oriented E-W, extends >3.9m × 0.56m × 0.23m; break of slope (top) moderate, sides gently sloping, base flat or slightly concave. Filled by (206) Cuts (202)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
6	206	-	Fill	Silting fill of [205]	Loose mid greyish-brown sandy silt, occasional small stones, extends >3.9m × 0.56m × 0.23m. Underlies (201) Fills [205]	-	/	-	-	-	C19/C20 pottery sherd

5.3 Trench 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	301	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Loose mid-dark greyish-brown clayey sandy silt, occasional small stones; extends >25m × >2m × 0.53m. Overlies (302)	-	-	-	-	-	
2	302	-	Layer	Natural deposition	Loose light brown sand & gravel (reddish & yellow patches); extends >25m × >2m × >0.09m. Underlies (301)	-	-	-	-	-	

5.4 Trench 4

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	401	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Loose mid-dark greyish-brown clayey sandy silt, occasional small stones; extends >25m × >2m × 0.45m. Overlies (404)	-	-	-	-	-	
2	402	-	Layer	Natural deposition	Loose reddish-brown sand & gravel; extends >25m × >2m × >0.08m. Cut by [403]	-	-	-	-	-	
3	403	-	Cut	Post-medieval field boundary	Linear; oriented NNW-SSE; break of slope (top) sharp, sides moderately sloping, break of slope (base) not excavated; base	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
				ditch	not excavated; extends >2m × 3m × 0.37m. Filled by (404) Cuts (402) Same as [103]						
4	404	-	Fill	Modern backfill of [403]	Loose dark greyish-brown sandy silt, occasional small stones; extends >2m × 3m × 0.37m	-	-	-	-	-	

5.5 Trench 5

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	501	-	Deposit	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish-brown slightly clayey sandy silt, occasional small stones; extends >25m × >2m × 0.41m	-	-	-	-	-	
2	502	-	Layer	Natural deposition	Loose light orange-red & brownish-yellow sand & gravel; extends >25m	-	-	-	-	-	

6 Conclusion

Trial-trenching revealed a 0.41-0.53m -thick topsoil deposit extending over the entirety of the excavated area. Underlying this over the entire area was a natural deposition consisting of sand and gravel.

Three features were identified. A wide fairly shallow ditch, [103], [403], oriented NNW-SSE was revealed in Trench 1 and Trench 4 (*Plate 1; fig. 2*). It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with material that was similar in composition and colour to the topsoil, (104), (404). A single heavily abraded sherd of 19th -century pottery and a fragment of 18th –century handmade ceramic land drain were recovered from the fill of [103].



Plate 1: N-facing section of boundary ditch [103] in Trench 1

Trench 2 contained two shallow ditches or drains. A linear feature [203] oriented NNW-SSE was located at the eastern extent of the trench (*Plate 2; fig. 2*). The fill (204) was paler than the overlying soils, possibly indicating an earlier date for the feature going out of use, although the lack of any finds meant that dating the feature remained inconclusive.



Plate 2: S-facing section of ditch [203]

Another ditch, [205], was revealed at the eastern extent of Trench 2, at a similar level and depth to [203] (*Plate 3; fig. 2*). The fill (206) was similar in composition to the overlying topsoil deposit. A single sherd of 19th -or 20th - century pottery was recovered from this fill.



Plate 3: W-facing section of ditch [205]

Ditch [103] [403] was interpreted as a probable post-medieval field boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map of 1882, which had been backfilled during the late 20th century. This feature appears to correspond to an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Morriss & Lewis 2008, *fig 1*). Ditch [203] also appeared to correspond to an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Morriss & Lewis 2008; *fig 1*). There was no distinct silting within any of the features excavated, all of which appeared to have been deliberately backfilled.

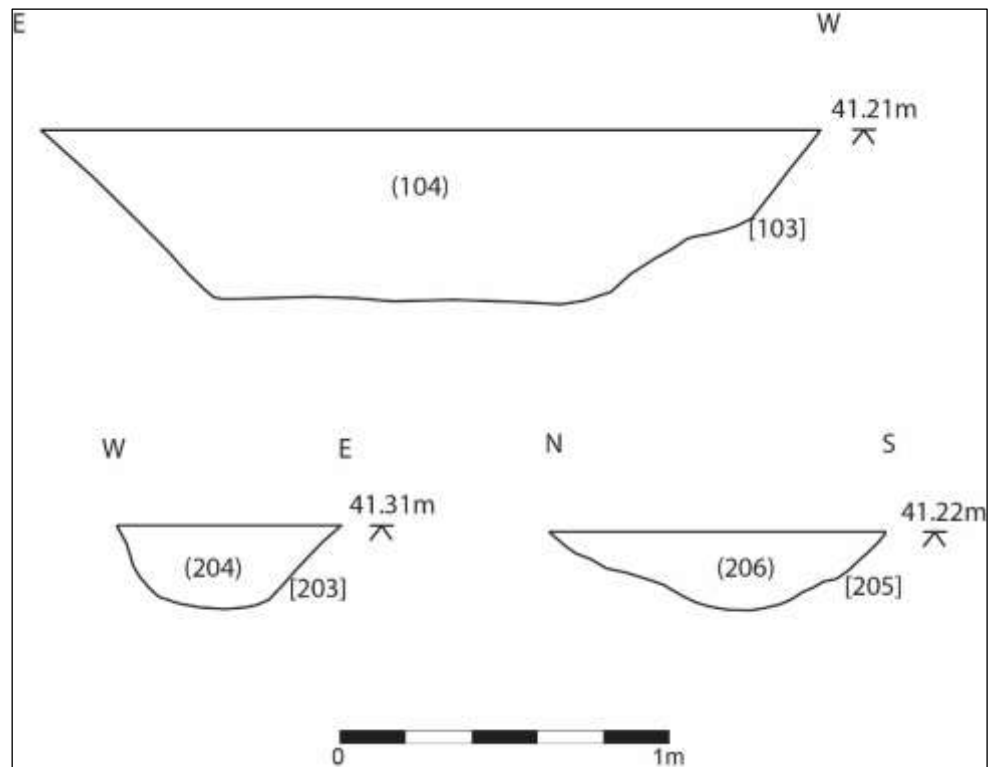


Fig. 2: Profiles of ditches [103], [203] and [205]

Geophysical data appeared to show a linear feature or group of linear features running broadly E-W, in the vicinity of Trench 4. Although trenching limitations meant that these features may have fallen outside of the excavated area, there was considerable disturbance of the natural soils resulting from bioturbation, probably caused by animal burrowing, which may account for these anomalies.

In summary, it can be confirmed that no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the archaeological evaluation.

7 Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the Council for the use of the report by the client and the Council in all

matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

8 Bibliography

Derbyshire HER printout

Border Archaeology, 2014, *Field Recording Manual*

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

ClfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

ClfA, 2014, *Code of Conduct*

ClfA, 2015, *Regulations for professional conduct*

Cooper, N., 2006, *The East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework Project printout*

Cramp, R., 2008, *Archaeological Strip, Map & Record Programme on land at Fryzm's House Farm Stenson Derbyshire*, Stoke-On-Trent Archaeology, Unpublished Document

EH, 2006, *Management of Archaeological Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

Margary I., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain*, Trowbridge

Morriss, A. & Lewis, B., 2008, *Geophysical Survey on Land near Stenson, Derbyshire*, Nottingham

SSEW, 1983, *Soil Survey of England and Wales Scale 1:250,000*, Silsoe

8.1 Cartography and Aerial Photography

OS 1st Edition 25-inch County Series map (1882)

OS 1:10000 Map (1988)

Report title: Archaeological Field Evaluation at Harry’s Farm Stenson Road Stenson Derbyshire		Report Ref: BA1514HFS	
Report written by	Will Logan BA PgDip		
Reported edited by	George Children MA MCIfA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	March 2015	Neil Shurety Dip.M G M Inst M