



**Archaeological Desk-Based
Assessment**

For

Deeley Homes

Concerning

**Land at Saxelby Road
Asfordby
Leicestershire**

April 2019



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Report Reference:

BA1909SRA

Grid Reference:

NGR: SK 70619 19337 (centre)

OS Licence Number:

100055758

Date:

April 2019

Cover: View looking east-northeast across the site of the proposed development from Saxelby Road

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1 Non-Technical Summary

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) of Land at Saxelby Road, Asfordby (Leics.) undertaken by Border Archaeology (BA) has reached the following conclusions regarding the potential and significance of the archaeological resource within the specific study area, which are summarised below:

- *The archaeological potential of the site for prehistoric remains has been assessed as **Moderate to High**. This assessment reflects the evidence for a significant focus of multi-period activity ranging from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age recorded to the west of the site during recent excavations at Loughborough Road, as well as evidence of further Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation identified in the wider vicinity of the site.*
- *In terms of material of a Romano-British date, the archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as **Moderate**. While there is an apparent lack of any positively identified Romano-British settlement sites within Asfordby, a significant number of artefactual finds of Romano-British date have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.*
- *The potential for archaeological features or deposits of a medieval date being encountered within the boundaries of the site has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment is based upon the potential for the groundworks to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity, such as ridge and furrow and pottery scatters caused by manuring, due to the location of the site within an extensive area of former open fields to the immediate N of the village of Asfordby.*
- *The site has been assessed as having **Low** potential for archaeological remains of post-medieval date, reflecting the usage of the site as agricultural land throughout the 19th-20th centuries and the lack of evidence for recorded post-medieval occupation features in the immediate vicinity, based on consultation of the Leicestershire HER and available historic mapping of the study area.*

Summary Conclusion: The overall archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as **Moderate to High**, with particular reference to archaeological remains of prehistoric date, ranging broadly from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age. There is also potential for features or finds of a Romano-British or medieval date to be encountered during the works associated with the proposed development.

Recommendations: Given the **Moderate to High** archaeological potential of the site, it is recommended that an appropriate programme of archaeological work (most likely field evaluation), the details to be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire (East), will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of buried archaeological features and deposits across the site.

2 Introduction

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) has been undertaken by Border Archaeology (BA) in response to an instruction from Jane Fradgley, Senior Development Manager, Deeley Homes, regarding a proposed housing scheme on land at Saxelby Road, Asfordby, Leicestershire. The site is centred on NGR: SK 70619 19337 (*fig. 1*).

3 Site Description

3.1 Site Location & Proposals

The description of the site is based on plans and specifications of the proposed development provided on 31st January 2019. The information in this document was, to the best knowledge of the author and BA, correct at the time of writing. The site (which stands at approximately 76m AOD) comprises four large sub-rectangular fields, and a number of smaller associated enclosures, measuring approximately 24,983 m² in size. Two of the fields comprising the site are currently used as paddocks, which the rest of the site is waste land/meadow, situated on the N edge of the village of Asfordby. The current proposals involve the construction of 55 dwellings within the site, together with associated access roads, landscaping and the installation of services.

The proposed development is also located approximately 192m to the N of the Asfordby Conservation Area, as designated by Melton Borough Council.

3.2 Topography, Soils & Geology

The topography and underlying geology of the site and its surrounding area can provide a useful indication of the suitability for settlement and ground levels (if available) can indicate whether the ground has been built up or truncated, which can give a better understanding of potential archaeological survival.

The site of the proposed development is located on the N edge of the village of Asfordby, approximately 400m to the NE of the River Wreake. Asfordby is situated approximately 3km to the W of the town of Melton Mowbray. The site comprises four large sub-rectangular fields, and a number of smaller associated enclosures, all of which are relatively flat.

The soils present are predominantly typical stagnogley soils of the WICKHAM 2 series (711f) composed of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Small areas of slowly permeable calcareous soils are present on steeper slopes. The underlying geology is recorded as drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or Mudstone (SSEW 1983).

The British Geological Survey (BGS 2019) lists the bedrock in the vicinity of the site as belonging to the Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation. This is recorded as mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 191 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas.

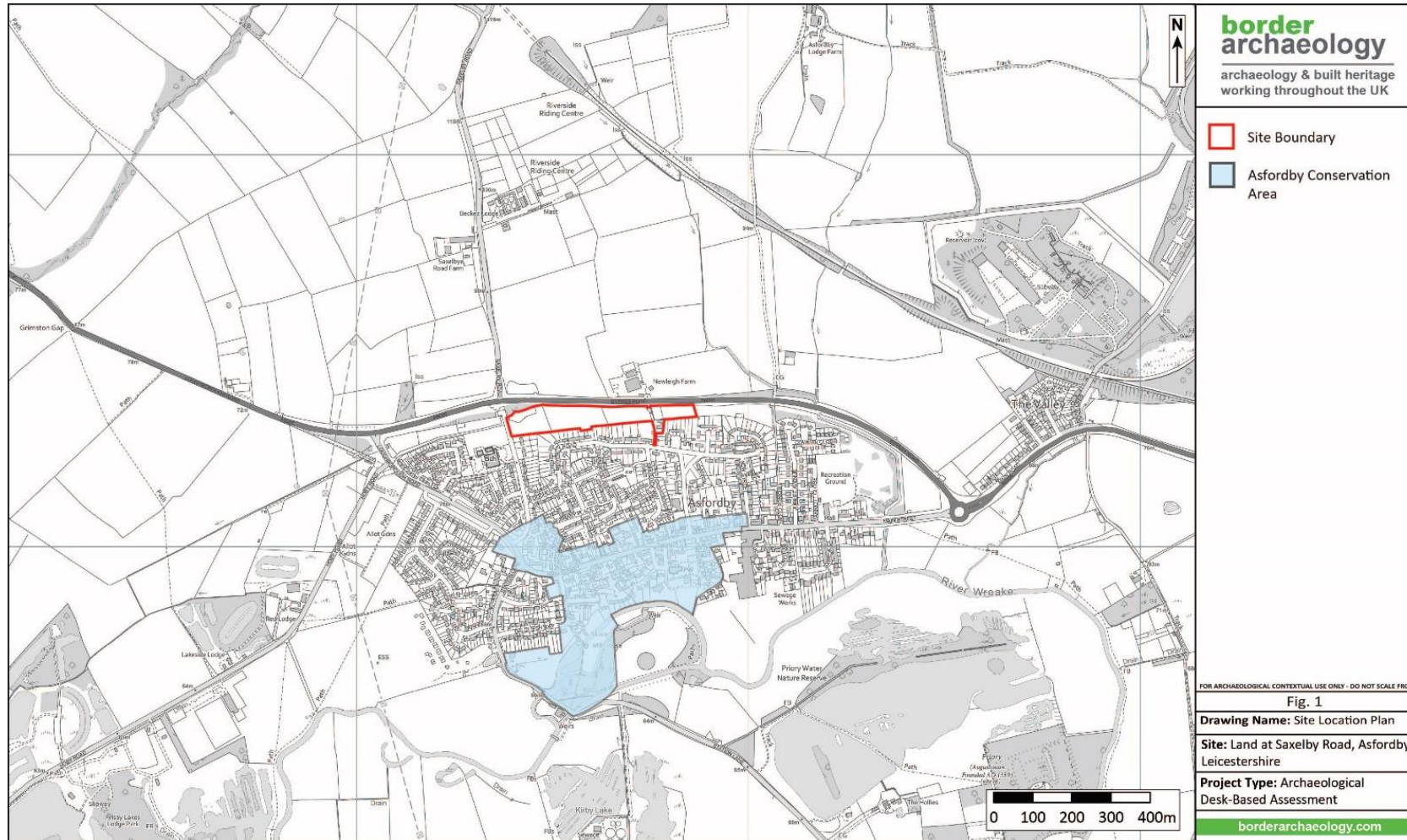


Fig. 1: General site location plan

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4 Methodology

4.1 Aims & Objectives

This ADBA seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological and built-heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) in the vicinity of the specific study area and to establish the importance of these archaeological and built-heritage assets (including an assessment of their character, extent and quality) within a local, regional and national context.

4.2 Criteria for Assessment of Potential & Importance of Heritage Assets

4.2.1 Potential

This assessment contains a record of the known and potential archaeological and built-heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The potential for encountering a particular resource in the vicinity of the site has been assessed according to the following scale:

- **Low** – Very unlikely to be encountered.
- **Moderate** – Possibility that features may be encountered in the vicinity of the site.
- **High** – Remains highly likely to survive in the vicinity of the site.

4.2.2 Importance (Value)

The criteria used to determine the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed scheme (*Table 1*) has been informed by guidelines for assessing cultural heritage assets contained in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Vol. 11 Section 3 part 2* (Highways Agency 2009).

BA is also fully cognisant of general guidelines on the assessment of heritage assets contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Guidance Section 15* ('Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment'), as well as guidance regarding assessment of heritage assets in section 7.25 of the Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 (adopted October 10 2018), particularly Policy EN13 ('Heritage Assets') (Melton Borough Council 2018).

Table 1: Factors for assessing the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets

Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
High	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
Medium	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.
Low	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.
Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.

4.3 Consultation of Archaeological Records

In order to understand the full archaeological and historical context of the site, information was collected on the known cultural heritage features within a 1km study area around the site, the results of which are shown on a cultural heritage features map (*fig. 2*). This shows the location of known cultural heritage features (including SAMs, archaeological events and monuments) within the study area, which have been assigned a unique cultural heritage reference number (**1,2,3**, etc.). These are listed in the gazetteer (*Table 2*).

The research carried out for this ADBA consists of the following elements:

- Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER includes information from past investigations, find spots and documentary and cartographic sources;
- Historic England – information on statutory designations including SAMs, registered parks and gardens and listed buildings, along with identified Heritage at Risk;
- The National Record of the Historic Environment database (<http://pastscape.org.uk>);
- The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) online database (<https://finds.org.uk/database/>);
- British Geological Survey (BGS) – solid and drift geology digital map\geological borehole record data (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>);
- Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office and the National Archives – historic maps, illustrations, relevant primary and secondary sources;
- Internet sources, including LPA local plan and information on conservation areas, archaeological priority areas and locally listed buildings;
- Cambridge University Centre for Aerial Photography and Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office – vertical and specialist (oblique) aerial photographs dating back to the late 1940s.

The ADBA included a site visit carried out on the 3rd April 2019, which determined the topography of the site and existing land-use and previous building activity within the site. Observations made during the site visit have been incorporated into this report.

5 Assessment

This section analyses the information available from historical sources and records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the specific study area and discusses its implications with regard to the nature and significance of the archaeological resource within the site and potential impact on archaeological features and deposits (*fig. 2*).

5.1 Prehistoric

Previous archaeological fieldwork has identified significant evidence for early prehistoric activity (in particular dating to the Mesolithic) in the vicinity of the site. Trial trenching and subsequent excavations carried out on land to the E of Loughborough Road (about 120m W of the site) in advance of housing development between 2008 and 2011 recovered a large quantity of Middle to Late Mesolithic worked flint, recovered from a colluvial deposit and within tree-throws and a later prehistoric gully feature (HER MLE21134; ELE6019; ELE8897; Parker 2008; Higgins & Cooper 2009, 251; Thomas 2010, 347; Jarvis 2012). The typology of the lithic assemblage, as well as the lack of damage recorded, appeared to suggest the presence of periodic habitation (and flint working activity) on the site throughout the Middle to Late Mesolithic period (Jarvis 2012, 25).

Other findspots of Mesolithic date have been recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development on the Leicestershire HER, the closest being a findspot relating to two unfinished pebble hammers, recovered from the garden of 33 Regency Road (HER MLE7066; approximately 80m to the S of the site). The Portable Antiquities Scheme database also records the discovery of a Mesolithic flint, possibly a blade core, within the vicinity of Asfordby (PAS LEIC-7DB115). As the PAS online database only provides four-figure grid references, this findspot is located at NGR: SK 70 19, placing it about 465m to the SW of the site. However, this location is not definite, and this find may possibly be associated with a group of flint cores previously found between the church and the River Wreake (HER MLE7568; c.430m to the S of the site).

Based on the above, it is clear that there is significant potential for archaeological evidence of Mesolithic activity (in particular, evidence of flint working) to be encountered during the works associated with the proposed development.

The 2008-2011 programme of archaeological works on Land to the E of Loughborough Road (ELE6019; ELE8897) also identified significant evidence for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation, including a rectangular structure, a cremation burial (radiocarbon dated to 2000-1940 BC), and evidence for flint knapping and the cultivation of both barley and emmer (HER MLE21135; approximately 175m to the W of the site).

Trial trenching in 2008 recorded a series of post holes, pits and a ditch, dated by sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery (Parker 2008). The subsequent excavations in 2009-2011 recorded significant further evidence for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation, including possible evidence for a rectangular structure, a series of pits and gullies, and the aforementioned cremation burial. Dating evidence was provided by a large assemblage of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age 'Beaker' pottery, amounting to over 420 sherds (Higgins & Cooper 2009, 251; Thomas 2010, 347, Jarvis 2012).

Further evidence of Bronze Age occupation in the wider locality is provided by a number of Bronze Age lithic artefacts identified during a fieldwalking survey undertaken in 2014 to the SE of Red Lodge (HER MLE21639; ELE9158; approximately 680m to the SW of the site). Numerous worked flints were identified, including an unusual scale-flaked knife, interpreted as possibly representing grave goods from a nearby ploughed out barrow identified through aerial survey (HER MLE3329, Pickering & Hartley 1985, 40; Browning 2014). Subsequent geophysical survey and trial trenching (ELE9373; ELE10133) confirmed the presence of a ploughed-out barrow, and recovered a further substantial assemblage of Beaker pottery (Davies 2014; Browning 2015; Patrick 2017).

Further lithic finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date were identified by a fieldwalking survey in the vicinity of the church in the 1990s (HER MLE8867; about 300m to the S of the site). These finds, combined with the extensive evidence for Neolithic/Bronze Age activity revealed during investigations at Loughborough Road and to the SE of Red Lodge, means that there is a strong indication that Asfordby was a focus of settlement within these periods, and that there will remain a significant potential for the works associated with the development to uncover further evidence of Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation.

The 2009-2011 excavations (ELE8897) at Loughborough Road also identified evidence of Iron Age occupation, consisting of a single pit containing Iron Age pottery (HER MLE21136; Jarvis 2012; approximately 160m to the SW of the site). Finds of Iron Age artefacts have also been recorded in the wider locality, including an Iron Age coin found to the E of the Village Hall (HER MLE10265; approximately 450m to the SE of the site) and a copper alloy toggle fastener found elsewhere in the village although its location is not specified (PAS LEIC-710194).

While the amount of Iron Age activity recorded on the Leicestershire HER within the designated study area is noticeably less than that identified from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age, the results of the excavations at Loughborough Road may be adduced as evidence that low-level settlement activity in this area continued into the Iron Age period. Consequently, there is limited potential for evidence of Iron Age activity to be identified in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Conclusion: *The potential for evidence of prehistoric activity being encountered during the works associated with the development has been assessed as **Moderate to High**. This especially reflects the substantial amount of evidence for prehistoric activity dating from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age recorded during excavations at Loughborough Road, about 120m to the W of the site. Based on the results of these investigations and finds made in the wider locality, there would appear to be significant potential for encountering flint scatters of Mesolithic date and occupation features dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. Further evidence of prehistoric remains, if identified, may be considered to be of **Medium to High** significance in archaeological terms.*

5.2 Romano-British

Although no positively identified Romano-British sites are recorded within the designated study area on the Leicestershire HER, several findspots are recorded, including two 4th century bronze coins identified in the garden of 26 Klondyke Way in 1969 (HER MLE7956; approximately 415m to the SW of the site), and a number of Romano-British brooches uncovered in playing fields to the E of Marriott Close (HER MLE7956; approximately 370m to the SE of the site).

The PAS database records that several Romano-British brooches have been found in the vicinity of Asfordby although the database only provides a four-figure grid reference of SK 70 19, placing them approximately 465m to the SW of the site (LEIC-A9BB91; LEIC-D7E030; LEIC-A9CDC5 - SK7019; LEIC-A9C476; LEIC-A9B6A1; LEIC-A9A535; LEIC-DB0A35). It is possible that some of these PAS entries could relate to the brooches recorded on the HER as having been found to the E of Marriott Close.

A total of 19 coins of Roman date have also been identified within the vicinity of Asfordby, with dates ranging from the mid-2nd to mid-4th centuries AD, including two silver *denarii* of Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD; PAS LEIC-AD6145; PAS LEIC-C8BC15) and a copper alloy *nummus* of Constantine II (337-340 AD; PAS LEIC-1A2CF2). No precise locations for these findspots are recorded in the PAS database (SK 70 19); consequently, it is difficult to determine the geographical distribution of these finds and whether they point to a focus of Romano-British activity in a specific area.

While there is no evidence for a positively identified focal point of Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity of Asfordby, the quantity of artefactual finds of Roman date recorded in the surrounding area would appear to hint strongly at a focus of occupation or possibly industrial activity somewhere nearby.

Conclusion: *The potential for evidence of Romano-British activity being encountered during the works associated with the development has been assessed as **Moderate**. This is based upon the sizeable number of Romano-British findspots recorded on both the Leicestershire HER and the PAS database in the vicinity of the site, which appear to indicate a focus of Romano-British occupation or possibly industrial activity somewhere nearby, although no recorded settlement focus has yet been identified to date.*

5.3 Medieval

The village of Asfordby (HER MLE8865; approximately 70m S of the site) is a nucleated settlement of early medieval origin, first recorded as *Osferdebie* in the Domesday Survey of 1086. This place-name is of Scandinavian origin, denoting a 'farmstead/village of a man called Ásrøthr' (Bourne 2003, 27; Mills 2003, 19).

Pre-Conquest occupation at Asfordby is evidenced by the surviving fragments of a 10th/11th century cross within the N and S aisles of All Saints Church (HER MLE3338; 320m to the S of the site), as well as a number of findspots of an early medieval date recorded in the wider vicinity of the village. These include two fragments of copper alloy cruciform brooches (LEIC-CA2F23; LEIC-9C3092), a fragment of a copper alloy Anglo-Scandinavian stirrup strap mount (LEIC-050256), and an 8th silver coin known as a *sceat* (LEIC-7FF4D2). However, as with the earlier finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, these findspots are only given a four-figure grid reference, and therefore it is difficult to accurately locate them.

Domesday records that a 'Ralph Framen' held the manor from the King (Morris 1975, 42.9) and also mentions the presence of two mills within Asfordby. The possible location of one of these sites is recorded approximately 540m to the S of the site, on the banks of the River Wreake (HER MLE3334). By the mid-12th century the manor was in the hands of the Earl of Leicester who granted it to Leicester Abbey c.1145 (Thompson 1949, 5). By the early 13th

century, the manor had been acquired in exchange by the Bishop of Lincoln and remained a bishopric estate until 1547, when it came into the hands of the Crown (Curtis 1831, 4).

The earliest documentary evidence for the Grade I Listed parish church, All Saints, dates from the 13th century. However, the existing church fabric is largely 14th century, with a 15th century clerestory and tower, and was restored in the 1860s (HER MLE12474; 310m to the S of the site). A Grade II Listed medieval village cross (mounted on a 20th century shaft) is located to the N of the church (HER MLE12471; c.250m to the S of the site).

Archaeological evidence of medieval occupation, including the remains of a stone oven, the footings of structures of medieval date, and pottery, was recorded to the E of the church during a watching brief undertaken by the Melton Fieldwalking group in the 1990s adjacent to Riverside Walk (HER MLE8866; approximately 250m to the S of the site).

Medieval activity within Asfordby is also evidenced by pottery scatters identified elsewhere within the village, including an assemblage of medieval/post-medieval pottery recovered from the garden of 14 Woodhouse Road (HER MLE16975; 100m to the S of the site) and a large assemblage of medieval/post-medieval pottery identified during a fieldwalking survey undertaken to the SE of Red Lodge in 2014 (HER MLE21640; ELE9158; Browning 2014; 540m to the SW of the site). The latter assemblage was interpreted as having been deposited on the field via manuring, the process of fertilizing arable fields from a communal manure heap, which would have often contained discarded pieces of broken pottery.

The site at Saxelby Road lies within the northern part of an extensive medieval open field system surrounding the village of Asfordby (typical of the 'champion' fieldscape of nucleated villages and associated open field systems of medieval date encountered throughout much of the East Midlands). In spite of later enclosure activity, the survival of significant elements of the open field system surrounding the village is evident from the fieldscape pattern visible on 19th-20th century historic mapping and modern aerial photographs of the study area.

Both aerial photography (*fig. 7*) and aerial LiDAR survey (*fig. 8*) demonstrate that large amounts of ridge and furrow, a relict byproduct of medieval and post-medieval open field farming techniques are present both within the boundaries of the site itself, and in the landscape surrounding the development. Some faint traces of this ridge and furrow is also visible on the ground in the fields comprising the site (see Section 6). Consequently, it is highly likely that the site lay within agricultural fields in the immediate hinterland of the medieval village of Asfordby, and therefore there is significant potential for evidence of medieval agricultural activity (e.g. ridge and furrow, pottery scatters, field boundaries) to be encountered during the works associated with the proposed development.

Conclusion: *The potential for evidence of medieval activity being encountered during the works associated with the development has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the location of the site within an area of former open fields to the immediate N of the village of Asfordby and the consequent potential for the scheme to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity, such as ridge and furrow. The likelihood of identifying occupation features of medieval date would appear to be limited, although it is possible that scatters of medieval pottery associated with manuring activity might be encountered.*

5.4 Post-Medieval

Although a number of post-medieval features are recorded on the Leicestershire HER within the designated study area, none of these sites or monuments are located especially close to the proposed development site. The closest post-medieval feature to the site (excluding scatters of post-medieval pottery to the SE of Red Lodge mentioned previously) is a Grade II Listed early 19th century red brick coach-house and stable (MLE12478), located approximately 220m to the S of the site.

A 1761 enclosure award is available for Asfordby, but it does not include an associated map. Consequently, the earliest available cartographic source showing the site of the proposed development in any appreciable detail is provided by the 1816 Ordnance Survey (OS) Surveyor's Drawing of Melton Mowbray (*fig. 4*). This map shows the site of the proposed development as being located within agricultural land to the N of the village of Asfordby, to the immediate E of Saxelby Road which, at this point, provided the main route leading northward from the village. The extent of the village is much more limited than shown on modern cartography, appearing to only extend to the immediate N of Main Street, approximately 160m to the S of the site.

Although a number of field boundaries are shown as crossing the site on the 1816 map, the accuracy of these boundaries cannot be relied upon as field boundaries recorded on OS Surveyors' drawings are often not accurate, tending to be largely generic and designed to fill space between roads and settlements and often bearing very little relation to earlier enclosure maps and later tithe and OS surveys.

The tithe map for Asfordby only covers a small part of the parish, due to the fact that tithes had largely been commuted as a result of the Asfordby enclosure award of 1761. Consequently, the only fields recorded in the 1852 tithe survey lie between the River Wreake and the Melton Mowbray Navigation, well to the S of the site of the proposed development.

The next available accurate cartographic representations of the site are provided by the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps dated 1884 and 1904 respectively (*figs. 5 & 6*). The fieldscape recorded on both of these maps is largely the same as that shown on modern cartographic records, with the exception of the smaller enclosure at the NW end of the westernmost large field and the smaller paddock towards the E end of the site, as well as the disappearance of boundaries in the middle of the two large fields occupying the central portion of the site. Another feature which appears to have vanished between 1884 and 1903 is a small pond on the N boundary of the site (at NGR: SK 7048 1935). This feature is recorded on the 1884 OS Survey, but appears to have been filled in by 1903.

The field morphology recorded on 1884 and 1903 OS maps is highly suggestive of the site lying within an area of former medieval open fields, with a number of thin linear fields and 'dog-leg' field boundaries being present, indicative of the enclosure of former open fields. Further evidence of a former open-field system is provided by an aerial survey of Asfordby undertaken in 1975 (*fig. 7*) and 1m DTM LiDAR data held by the Environment Agency (*fig. 8*), both of which show a large amount of clearly defined ridge and furrow, both within the boundaries of the site and in its immediate vicinity.

Little change is recorded in the landscape of site between the dates of the 1903 OS map and the 1959 OS 1:10,560 National Survey, apart from a slight expansion of settlement at Asfordby northwards towards the site. By the date of the 1968 OS 1:2,500 National Survey, this growth in settlement had reached its modern extent, to the immediate S of the site of the proposed development. It is also notable that the pond on the N boundary of the site (at NGR: SK 7048 1935) reappears on the 1968 map, and a second, smaller, pond is located within the E boundary of the large field at the W edge of the site.

The area later comprising the small enclosure at the NW edge of this W field is shown on the 1968 map as containing several unmarked buildings, which appear to represent agricultural outbuildings or possibly stables of modern date. By 1975 a small paddock had been established around these buildings as shown on an OS 1:2500 map of that date. The most significant change to the landscape in the vicinity of the site since that date was the construction of the Asfordby bypass in the late 1990s.

Conclusion: *The potential for evidence of post-medieval activity being encountered during the works associated with the development has been assessed as **Low**. This reflects the lack of evidence for recorded post-medieval archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the site, based on consultation of the Leicestershire HER and available historic mapping of the study area.*

6 Site Visit

BA undertook a site visit on the 3rd April 2019, in order to determine the topography of the site and the presence of any visible features of possible archaeological significance within the site.

The westernmost large field was noted as comprising areas of scrub and grassland, with well pronounced evidence of NNW/SSE aligned ridge and furrow at its E end (*Plate 1*). However, no ridge and furrow earthworks were noted at the W end of the field.

To the N of this large field is a smaller enclosure, comprising overgrown waste ground (*Plate 2*). This field was approximately 2m higher the adjoining field, and a modern loading ramp (brick tarmac concrete construction) was noted deep amongst the vegetation.

The two central large fields were recorded as being used as paddocks. The westernmost of these two paddocks was relatively flat, apart from a slight rise half way down the enclosure, which may represent a possible older field boundary (*Plate 3*). The second large central paddock was very similar in nature to the field to its W, apart from a small area of possible ridge and furrow that was noted (*Plate 4*).

Two unequal sized paddocks were also located at the E end of the site. Neither of these fields were accessible during the site visit. The smaller paddock consisted of levelled made ground, while the larger paddock was similar to the two large central paddocks. No features of archaeological interest were observed in this specific area.



Plate 1: View looking ENE across the westernmost large field comprising the site



Plate 2: View looking ENE across the smaller enclosure to the N of the westernmost field



Plate 3: View looking W across the westernmost of the two central large fields



Plate 4: View looking ENE across the easternmost of the two central large fields

7 Conclusions

7.1 Potential Impacts

The proposed development involves construction of 55 dwellings and associated landscaping and service installation works within an area of approximately 24,983 m². Full specifications of the proposed foundations of the new buildings were not available at time of writing but it may be assumed that potential impacts from the proposed development on buried archaeological remains could include the following:

- *Excavation of foundation trenching*

Standard strip foundations would entail the removal of any archaeological remains within the footprint of each excavated strip to a typical depth of 1.0–1.5m below existing ground level as assumed for the purposes of this assessment. It is possible that the bases of archaeological features such as pits or ditches would remain intact beneath these impact levels but their context could be lost.

- *Excavation of service trenching*

The excavation of service trenching and drainage features may extend to a depth of at least 1.0–1.5m below existing ground level as assumed for the purposes of this assessment. This would entirely remove or truncate any archaeological remains within the footprint of the groundworks.

7.2 Overall Conclusion

The overall archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as **Moderate to High**, with particular reference to archaeological remains of prehistoric date (potentially dating back to the Mesolithic). There is **Moderate** potential for features or finds of a Romano-British or medieval date to be encountered during the works associated with the development. The potential for archaeological remains of post-medieval date has been assessed as **Low**.

This assessment reflects the substantial amount of evidence for prehistoric occupation dating from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age recorded during previous archaeological investigations to the E of Loughborough Road, approximately 120m to the W of the site, as well as evidence of further Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation in the wider vicinity of the site to the SE of Red Lodge.

It also takes into account the presence of a sizeable number of Romano-British findspots recorded in the vicinity of the site (although no actual focus of Romano-British occupation has yet been identified in close proximity to the site), as well as its location within an area of medieval open-fields to the N of the village of Asfordby.

In this instance, it is thus recommended that an appropriate programme of site investigation and recording (most likely field evaluation), the details of which to be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire (East), will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of buried archaeological features and deposits within the site.

8 Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteers & Maps

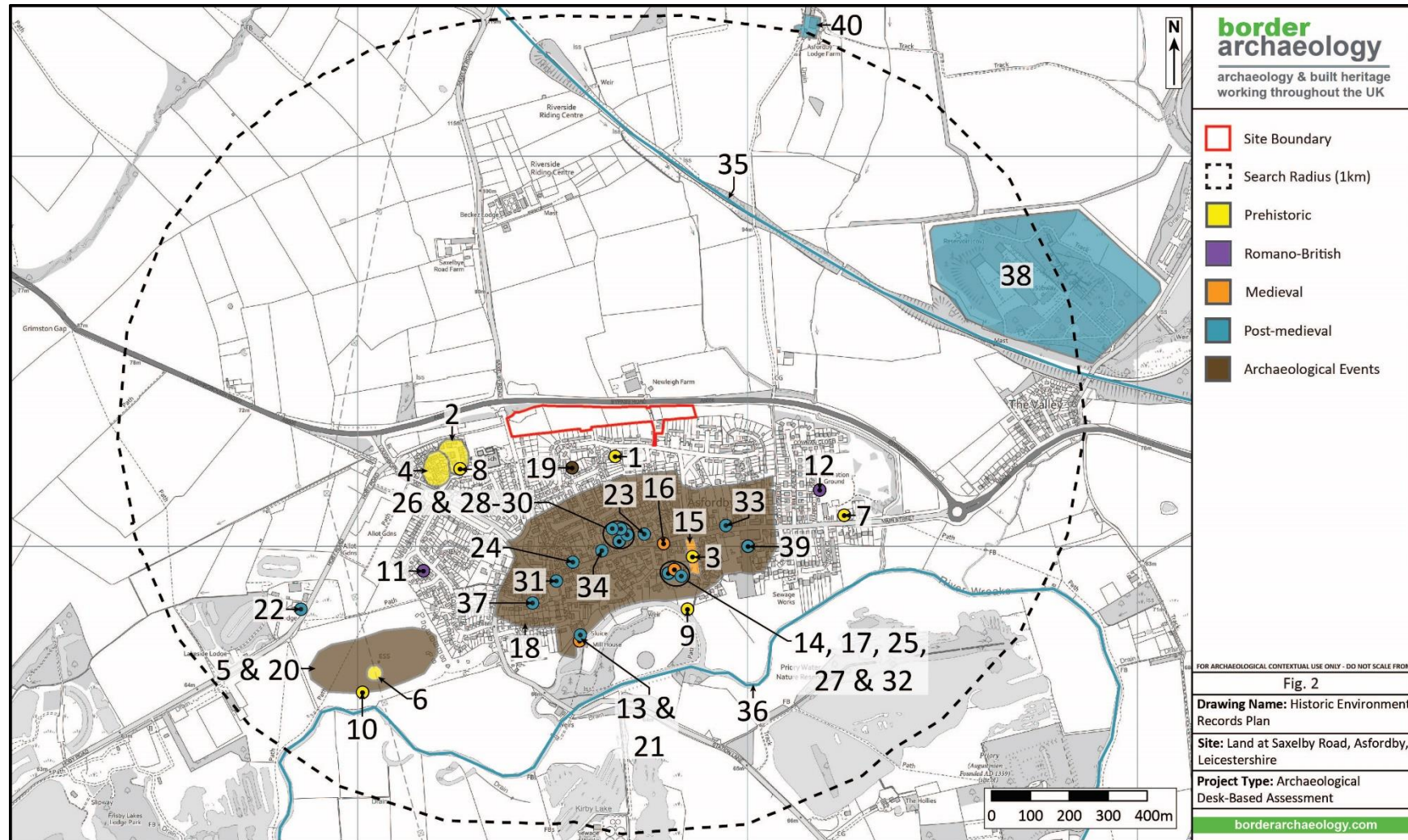
Table 2: Archaeological Monuments & Listed Buildings in the Vicinity of the Site recorded on the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER)

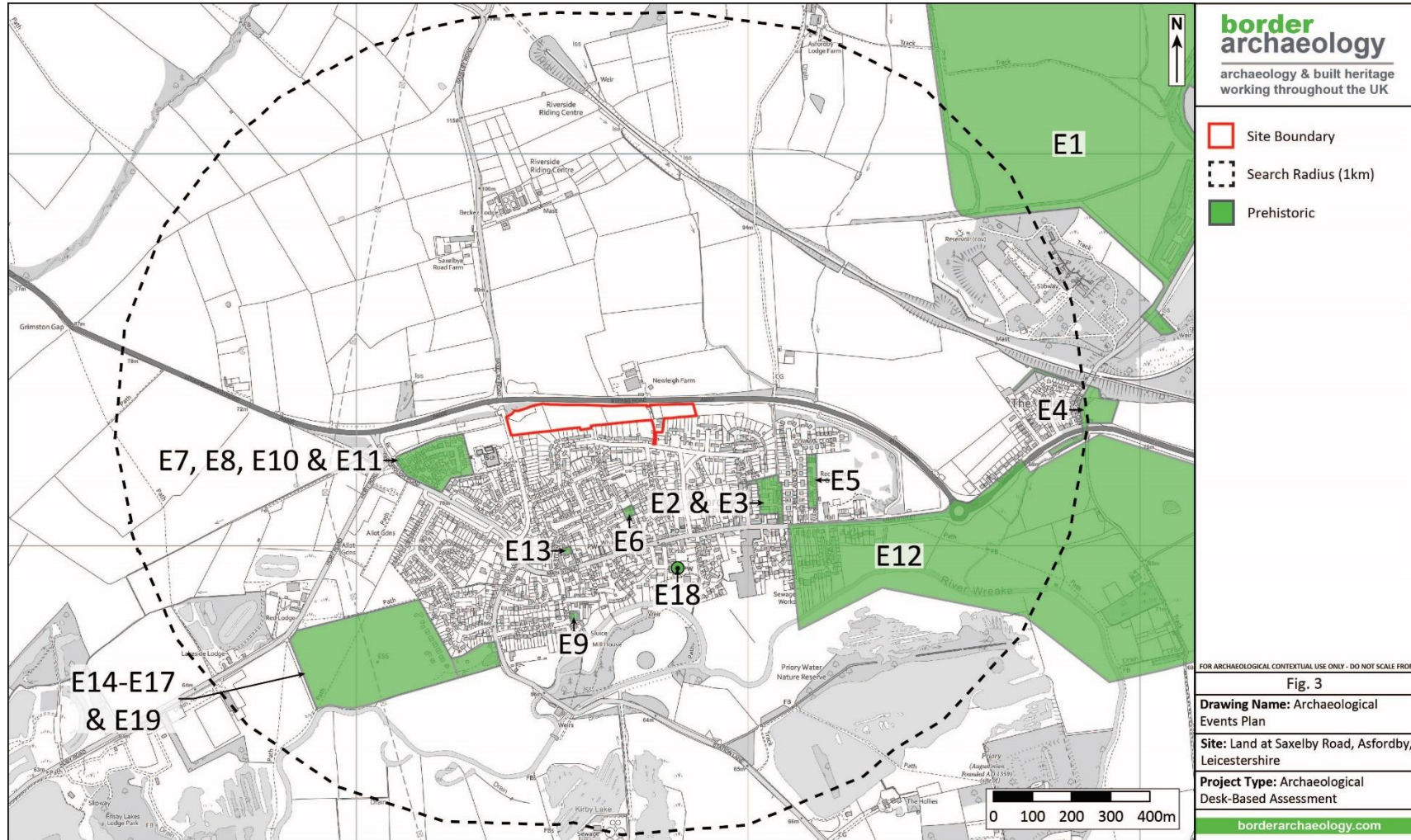
#	MonUID	Name	Date	NGR
1	MLE7066	Pebble Hammers	Mesolithic	SK 706 192
2	MLE21134	Mesolithic Flint Knapping Site, Flint Drive	Mesolithic	SK 702 192
3	MLE8867	Worked Flint Found E of the Church	Neo./BA	SK 708 189
4	MLE21135	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Site, Red Deer Close	Neo./BA	SK 701 192
5	MLE21639	Bronze Age Flint from SE of Red Lodge	Bronze Age	SK 700 187
6	MLE3329	Bronze Age Barrow SE of Red Lodge Farm	Bronze Age	SK 700 186
7	MLE10265	Iron Age Coin Found E of the Village Hall	Iron Age	SK 712 190
8	MLE21136	Iron Age Pit, Flint Drive	Iron Age	SK 702 191
9	MLE7568	Flint Cores Found S of the Church	Prehistoric	SK 708 188
10	MLE21945	Possible Prehistoric Sub-Circular Feature S of Red Lodge	Prehistoric	SK 700 186
11	MLE7956	2 C4th Coins	Romano-British	SK 701 189
12	MLE10266	Romano-British Brooches from the Playing Field	Romano-British	SK 711 191
13	MLE3334	Site of Asfordby Medieval Mill	Medieval	SK 705 187
14	MLE3338	Saxon cross at All Saints Church	Medieval	SK 708 189
15	MLE8866	Medieval Remains E of the Church	Medieval	SK 708 189
16	MLE12471	Village Cross, Main Street (S Side) (GII)	Medieval	SK 707 190
17	MLE12474	Church of All Saints (GI)	Medieval	SK 708 189
18	MLE8865	Asfordby Historic Settlement Core	Med./PM	SK 707 189
19	MLE16975	Med./PM Pottery	Med./PM	SK 705 192
20	MLE21640	Medieval & Post-Medieval Pottery from SE of Red Lodge	Med./PM	SK 700 187
21	MLE3335	Asfordby Mill	Post-med.	SK 705 187
22	MLE12401	Red Lodge (GII)	Post-med.	SK 698 188
23	MLE12472	The Elms at Asfordby Service Station, Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 707 190
24	MLE12473	The Blue Bell Public House, Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 705 189
25	MLE12475	Beechcroft, 15, Church Lane (GII*)	Post-med.	SK 708 189
26	MLE12476	The Old Hall, Main Street (N Side) (GII*)	Post-med.	SK 706 190
27	MLE12477	Chest Tomb c.2m SW of Porch of Church of All Saints, Church Lane (E Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 707 189
28	MLE12478	Coach House & Stable at the Old Hall, Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 706 190
29	MLE12479	Barn at the Old Hall, Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 706 190
30	MLE12480	Pump 30m SW of the Old Hall, Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 706 190
31	MLE12481	159 Main Street (S Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 705 189
32	MLE12482	Garden Boundary Wall w/ Gatepiers to NE of Beechcroft, Church Lane (GII)	Post-med.	SK 708 189
33	MLE12483	90 & 92 Main Street (N Side) (GII)	Post-med.	SK 709 190
34	MLE15261	Methodist Church, Main Street	Post-med.	SK 706 189
35	MLE16086	Midland Railway, Nottingham to Kettering	Post-med.	SK 790 110
36	MLE16302	Melton Mowbray Navigation	Post-med.	SK 680 150

37	MLE16192	Site of Asfordby Hall	Post-med.	SK 704 188
38	MLE20863	Asfordby Range	Post-med.	SK 717 196
39	MLE23878	Site of Cruck House	Post-med.	SK 710 190
40	MLE23963	Asfordby Lodge Farm, Bypass Road	Post-med.	SK 711 203

Table 3: Archaeological Events in the Vicinity of the Site recorded on the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER)

#	EvUID	Name	Date	NGR
E1	ELE8081	DBA: Proposed Coal Mine	1977-1979	SK 792 247
E2	ELE4941	DBA: Proposed Housing Development at Main Street	2003	SK 710 191
E3	ELE4151	WB: Groundworks at Main Street	2005	SK 710 191
E4	ELE4200	WB: Asfordby Valley	2005	SK 718 193
E5	ELE4502	WB: 30, Main Street	2005	SK 711 191
E6	ELE7961	WB: Land at White House Farm, 144, Main Street	2006	SK 706 190
E7	ELE4999	Geophysical Survey: Asfordby	2007	SK 701 192
E8	ELE7749	DBA: Land at Loughborough Road	2007	SK 701 192
E9	ELE5452	WB: Land at 13, Pump Lane	2008	SK 705 188
E10	ELE6019	Eval.: Land to E of Loughborough Road	2008	SK 701 192
E11	ELE8897	Excavations: Loughborough Road	2009-2011	SK 701 192
E12	ELE8490	DBA: Asfordby Sewage Pipeline	2012	SK 717 189
E13	ELE10181	WB: Blue Bell Inn, 175, Main Street	2015	SK 705 189
E14	ELE9158	Fieldwalking: Land W of Station Lane	2014	SK 700 187
E15	ELE9373	Geophysical Survey: Station Lane	2014	SK 700 187
E16	ELE9374	Eval.: Station Lane	2014	SK 701 187
E17	ELE9946	DBA: Land at Station Lane	2014	SK 700 187
E18	ELE10230	Project Gargoyle, All Saints Church, Church Lane	2014	SK 708 189
E19	ELE10133	Eval.: Land S of Hoby Road	2017	SK 699 187





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11 Cartography

(All maps were obtained from the Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office unless otherwise stated):

1816 – Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Melton Mowbray (British Library)

1852 – Asfordby Tithe Survey

1884 - OS First Edition 25-Inch Map of Leicestershire

1903 - OS Second Edition 25-Inch Map of Leicestershire

1959 – OS 1:10,560 National Survey

1968 – OS 1:2,500 National Survey

1975 – OS 1:2,500 National Survey

1987 – OS 1:2,500 National Survey

1993 – OS 1:10,000 National Survey

(Aerial photographs of the study area dating back to c.1945 were consulted using records held at the Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office and the Cambridge University Centre for Aerial Photography. Modern aerial photographs of the study area were consulted using Google Earth and www.getmapping.com).

12 Appendix 1: Historic Maps



Fig. 4: Extract from the 1816 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Melton Mowbray
(Reproduced courtesy of the British Library)

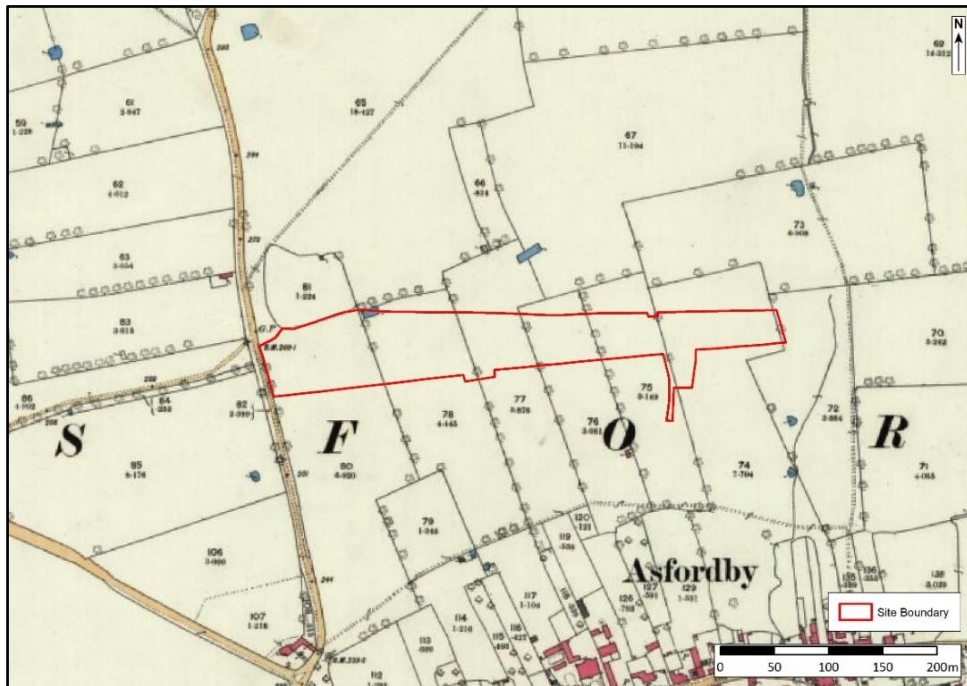


Fig. 5: Extract from the 1884 OS First Edition 25-Inch Map of Leicestershire
(Reproduced courtesy of the Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office)

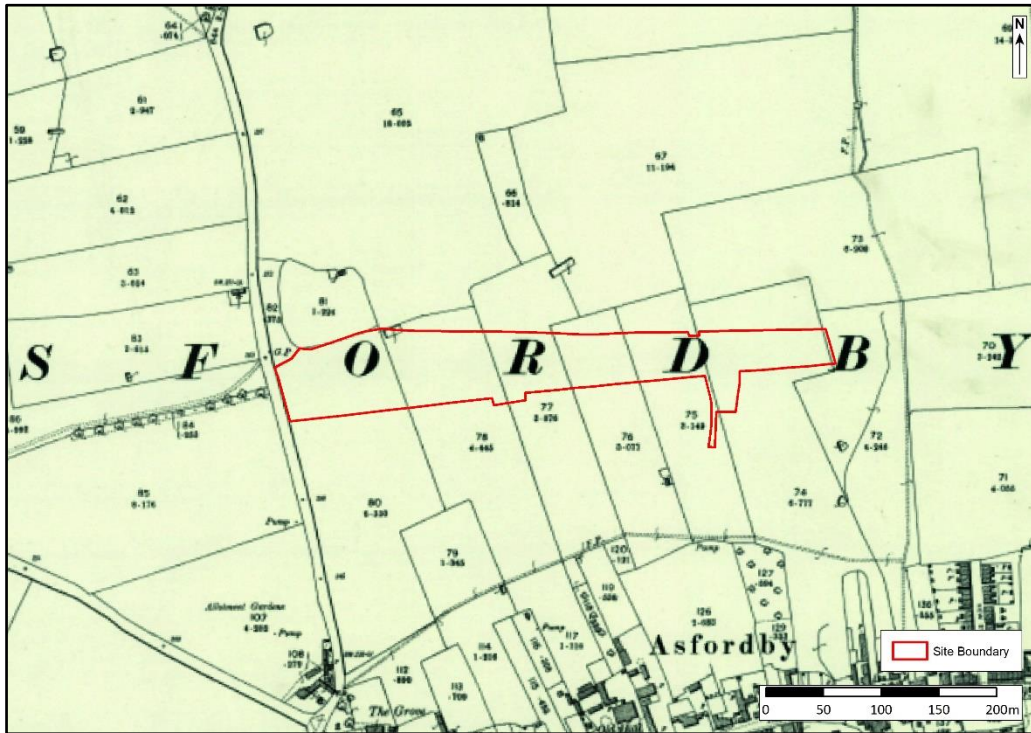
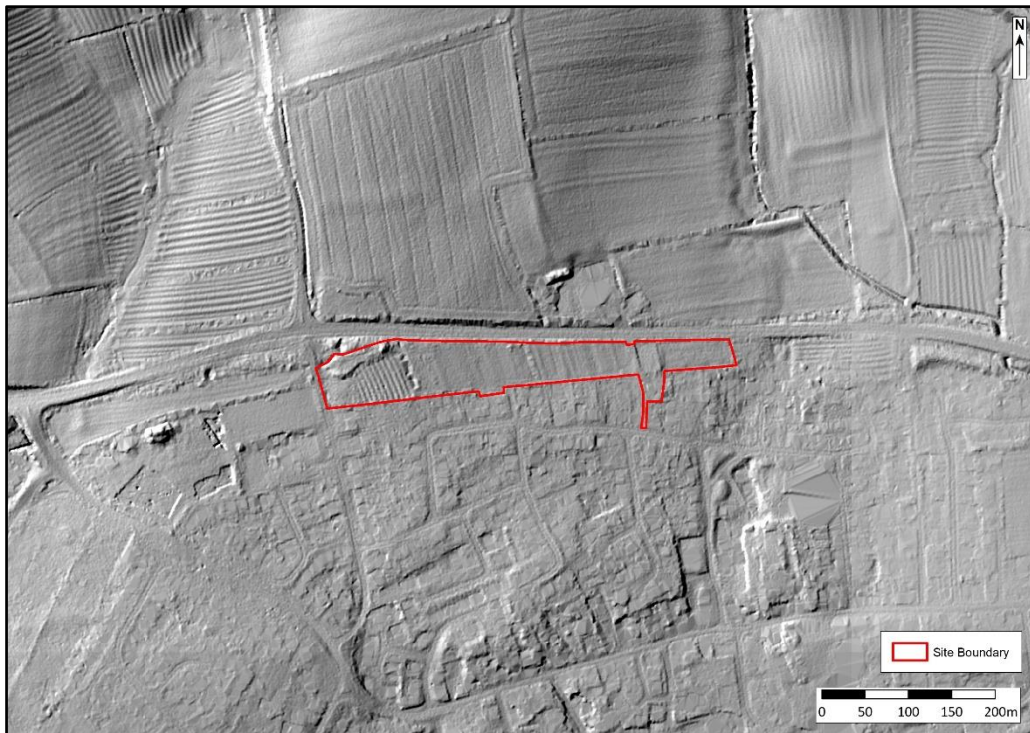


Fig. 6: Extract from the 1903 OS Second Edition 25-Inch Map of Leicestershire
(Reproduced courtesy of the Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office)



Fig. 7: Extract from an aerial photograph of Asfordby taken in 1975
(Reproduced courtesy of the Leicester and Leicestershire Record Office)



*Fig. 8: Extract from LiDAR 1m DTM Survey
(Reproduced courtesy of the Environment Agency)*

Document Title		Document Ref	
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land at Saxelby Road, Asfordby, Leicestershire		BA1909SRA	
Compilation	Owain Connors MA PhD		
Editing	Stephen Priestley MA MCI fA		
Artwork	Owain Connors MA PhD		
Artwork approved	Holly Litherland BA (Hons.)		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	April 2019	Stephen Priestley MA MCI fA