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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING AT 2 MELTON LANE,  
BURROUGH ON THE HILL,  
SOMERBY,  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
(BHML 15)**

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Work Undertaken For  
**Mr and Mrs D Smith**

October 2015

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) ACIfA

Planning Application No: 15/00188/FUL  
National Grid Reference: SK 7548 1070  
Museum Accession No: X.A65.2015  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-222947


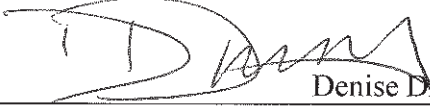
APS Report No. **84/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control**  
 2 Melton Lane,  
 Burrough on the Hill,  
 Somerby, Leicestershire

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at 2 Melton Lane, Burrough on the Hill, Somerby, Leicestershire. The investigations monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.*

*The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village in an area of ridge and furrow as mapped in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A post-medieval (AD 1540-1900) formal garden which survives as earthworks, existed immediately north of the site although there is no trace of the accompanying mansion. Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) remains are known to the southeast of the site and prehistoric artefacts are also known from this general area.*

*The investigations revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. No other archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D Smith to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new detached dwelling at 2 Melton Lane, Burrough on the Hill, Somerby, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 15/00188/FUL. The works were carried out on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Burrough on the Hill is located 8km south of Melton Mowbray and 10km west of Oakham, within the civil parish of Somerby, in the administrative district of Melton, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

The site is situated 260m southwest from the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference SK 7548 1070 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the northeast side of Melton Lane, close to its junction with Main Street and Twyford Road at a height of c. 181m.

Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, typically calcareous pelosols (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 209). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of glacial till with glacial sands and gravels outcropping to the east of the site. These in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias Clays and Limestones (GSGB 1975).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Burrough on the Hill is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Late Mesolithic to the present day. Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint tools, along with Bronze Age flints and an Iron Age loomweight were recovered during a watching brief to the southwest of the site (Thomas 2000). The most notable prehistoric monument is the Iron Age fortification of Burrough Hill, which dates from the mid Iron Age and continued in use, perhaps as late as the Roman period.

Investigations undertaken to the southwest of the site revealed evidence for settlement dating to the Late Saxon period comprising pits, gullies and beam slots (*ibid.*).

Burrough on the Hill is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Burg*, the name is derived from the Old English 'burh', meaning 'a stronghold', referring the nearby hillfort (Cox 2005, 18). At the time of Domesday the land was held

by Henry de Ferrers, Geoffrey de La Guerche and Herbert and contained extensive arable land, 40 acres of meadow and woodland 13 by 4 furlongs in extent (Williams and Martin 1992, 637, 644, 647).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Mary, the earliest elements of which date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1992, 118). During the medieval period, the site lay within the open fields of Burrough on the Hill as evidenced by an Estate map showing individual strips, correlating with ridge and furrow, present across the site (Hartley 1987, frontispiece).

During the post-medieval period, a mansion appears to have been built to the north of the site. No remains of this are known, although slight earthworks of the surrounding formal garden have been recorded to the immediate north of the site (*ibid.* 6).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development, generally 1.3m below the current ground level. Once excavated, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording was undertaken

according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation was a layer of yellowish brown sand with gravel (004). This was overlain by a second natural layer of yellowish grey clay (003). These deposits were in excess of 1m thick.

Sealing the natural deposits was a subsoil comprising a 0.2m thick layer of brown sandy clay (002). This was in turn sealed by the current topsoil of greyish brown sandy clay (001) that was 0.2m thick (Figs. 3 and 4; Plates 3 and 4).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of clay and sand with gravel relate to the underlying drift geology of glacially derived deposits.

Above this was a subsoil which is likely to indicate that the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past. There was no variation in the thickness of this layer which may suggest ridge and furrow, indicating that the site had been truncated by later agricultural practices or landscaping for the post-medieval formal garden.

No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Melton Lane, Burrough on the Hill, as the site lay within an area of prehistoric, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains.

However, only natural, subsoil and topsoil layers were encountered during the investigation. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs D Smith for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Denise Drury. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Site Supervisor: Jim Snee  
Archiving: Sarah Pritchard  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Luke Ivens  
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, B, 2005 *A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-names*, English Place-name Society Popular Series No. 5

Hartley, RF, 1987 *The Medieval Earthworks of North-East Leicestershire*

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*use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13

GSGB, 1975 *Leicester: Solid and drift edition*, 1:50 000 map sheet 156

Pevsner, N, 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> edition revised E Williamson)

Thomas, J, 2000 *An archaeological watching brief during construction of a new driveway to the rear of Burrough House, 16 Main Street, Burrough on the Hill, Somerby, Leicestershire*

Williams, A and Martin, GH, 1992 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain





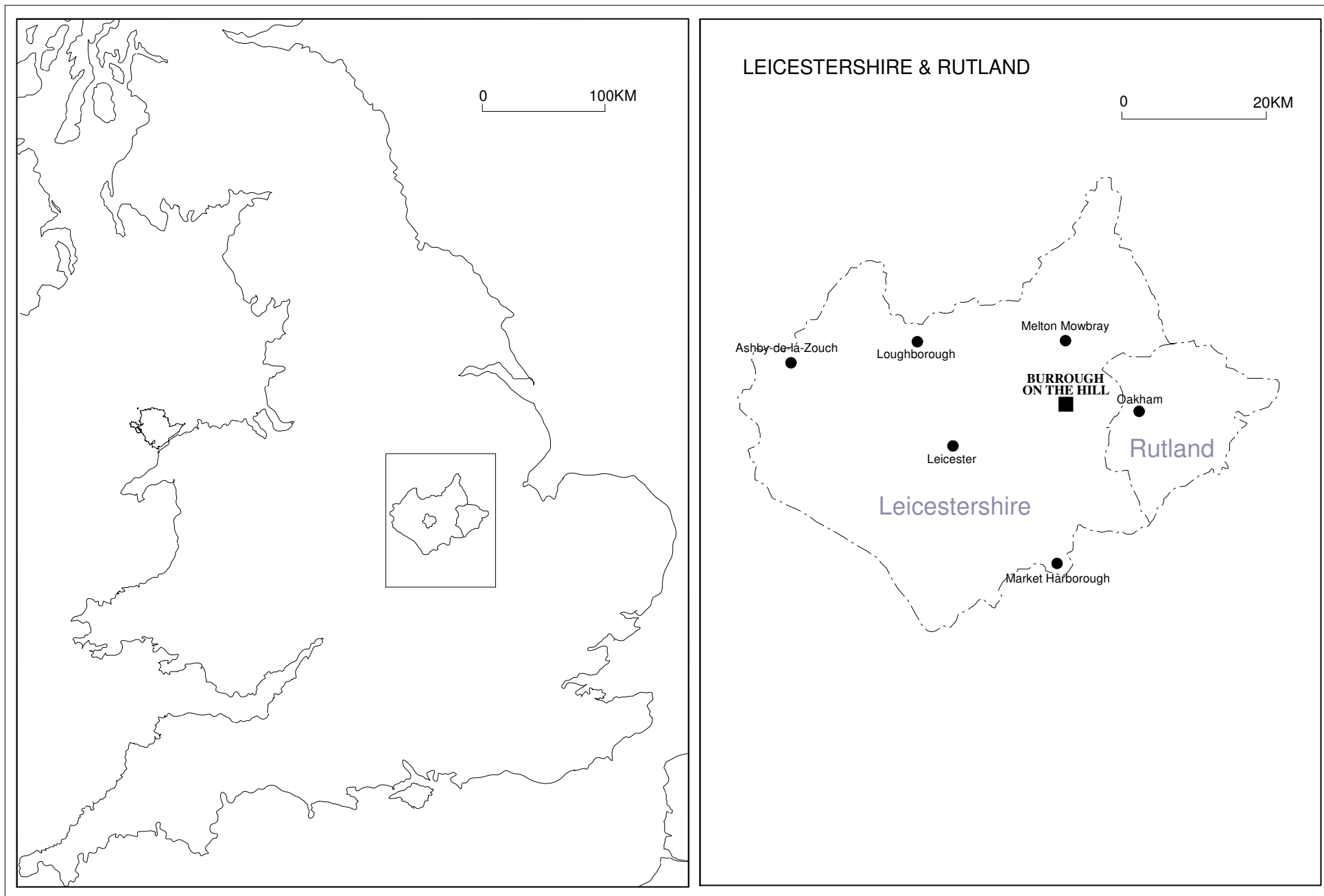


Figure 1 - General location map



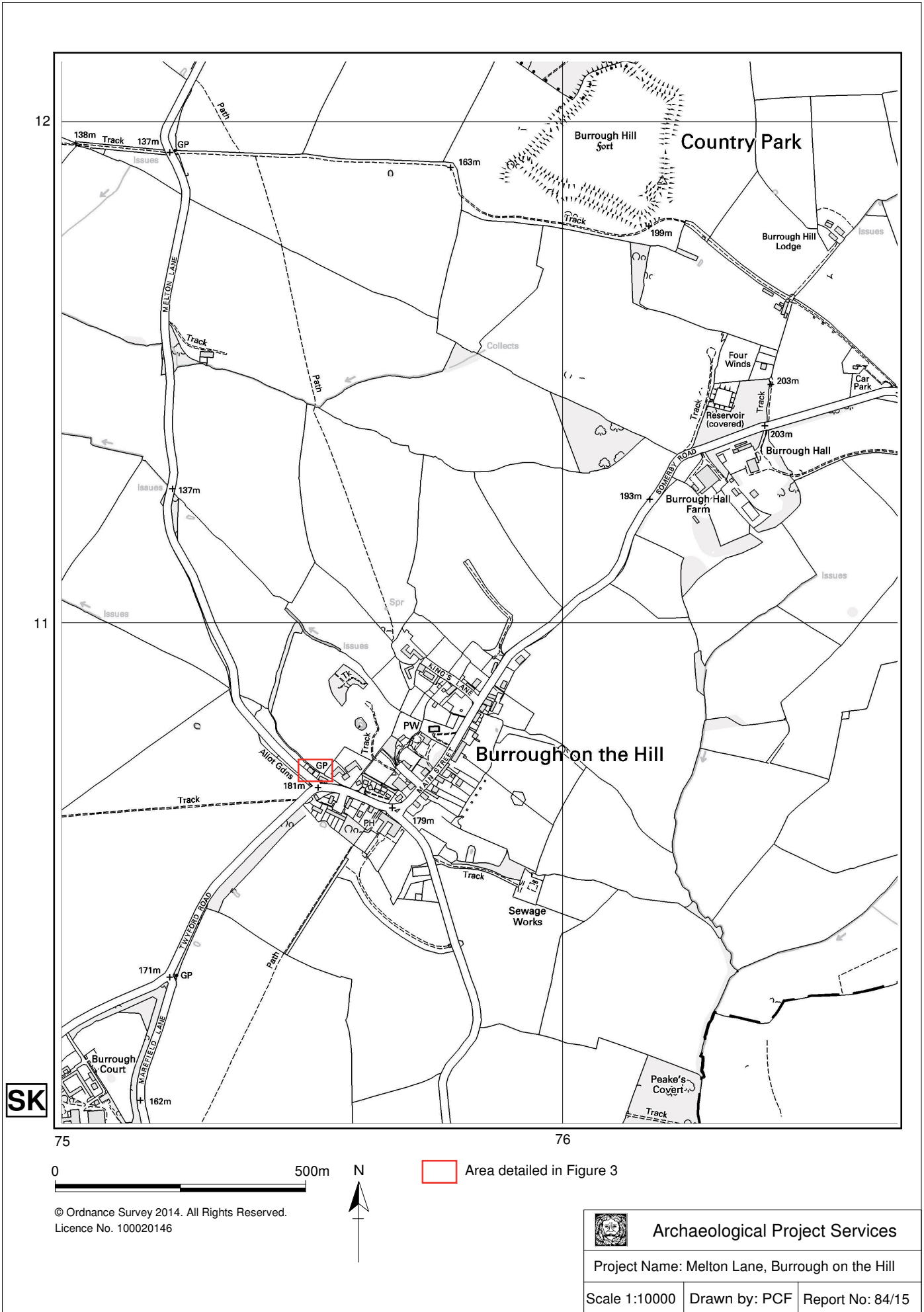


Figure 2 - Site location plan



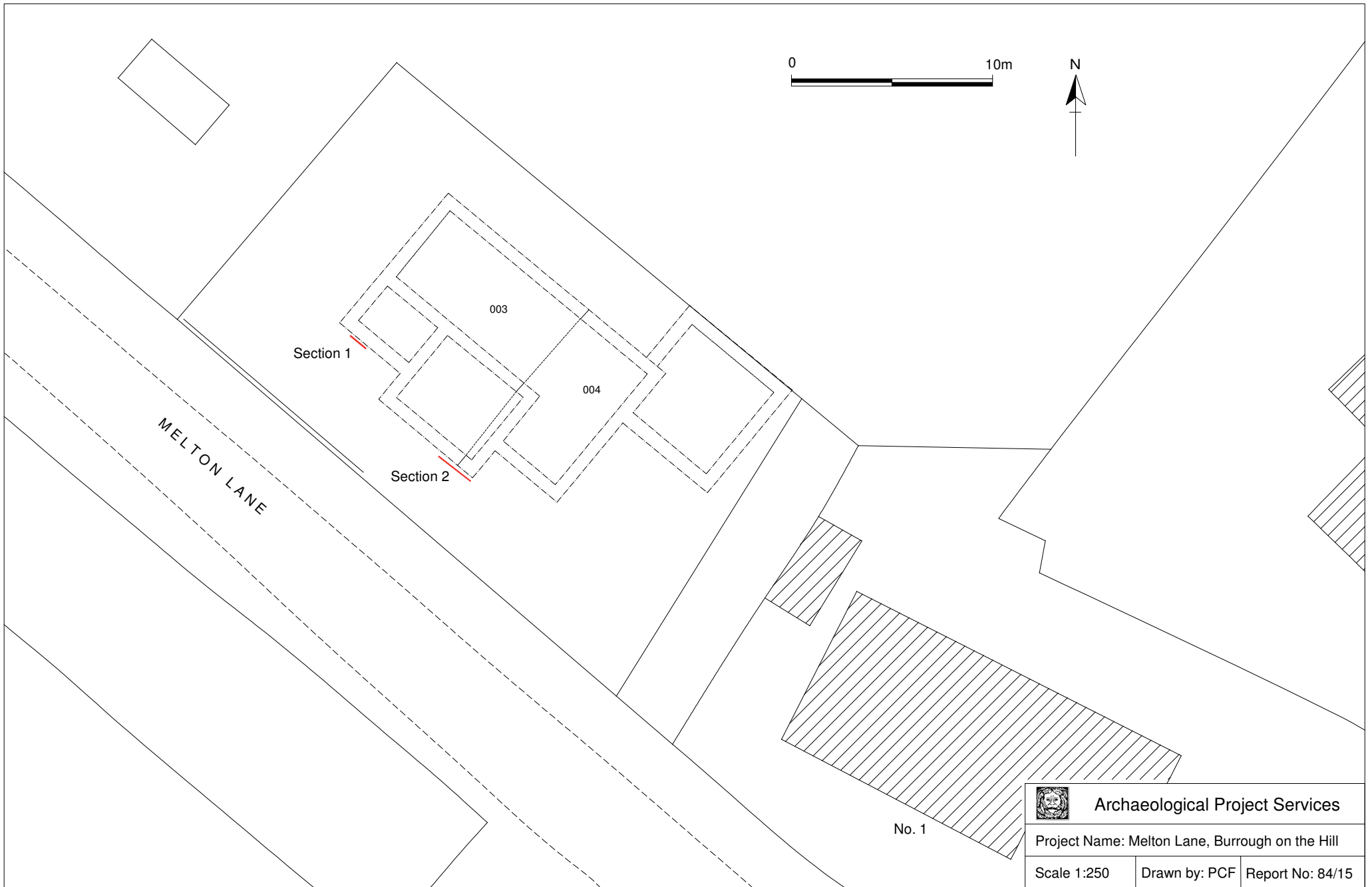
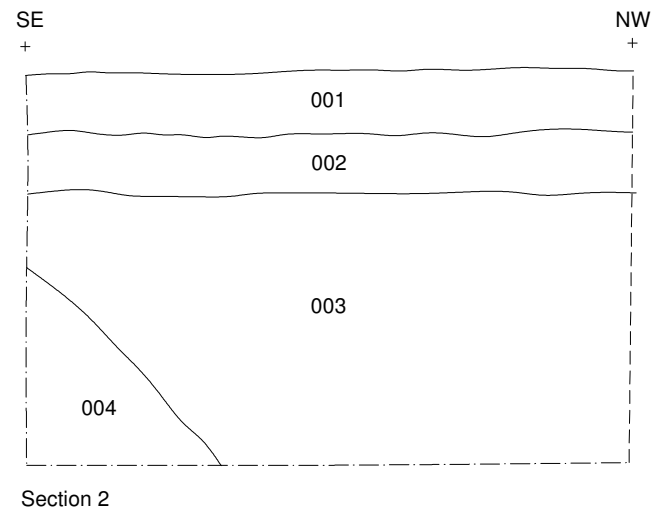
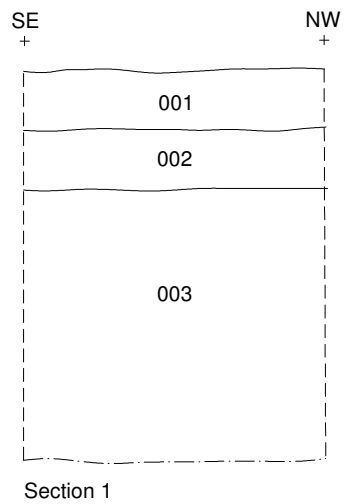


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations






		
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Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2







Plate 1 – View across the site with Burrough Hill in the background, looking north



Plate 2 – View across the excavated foundation trenches, looking northwest





Plate 3 – Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Section 2, looking southwest

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brown sandy clay, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid yellowish grey clay, >1m thick	Natural deposit
004	Friable mid yellowish brown sand with gravel, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit



## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany
<b>Till</b>	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.



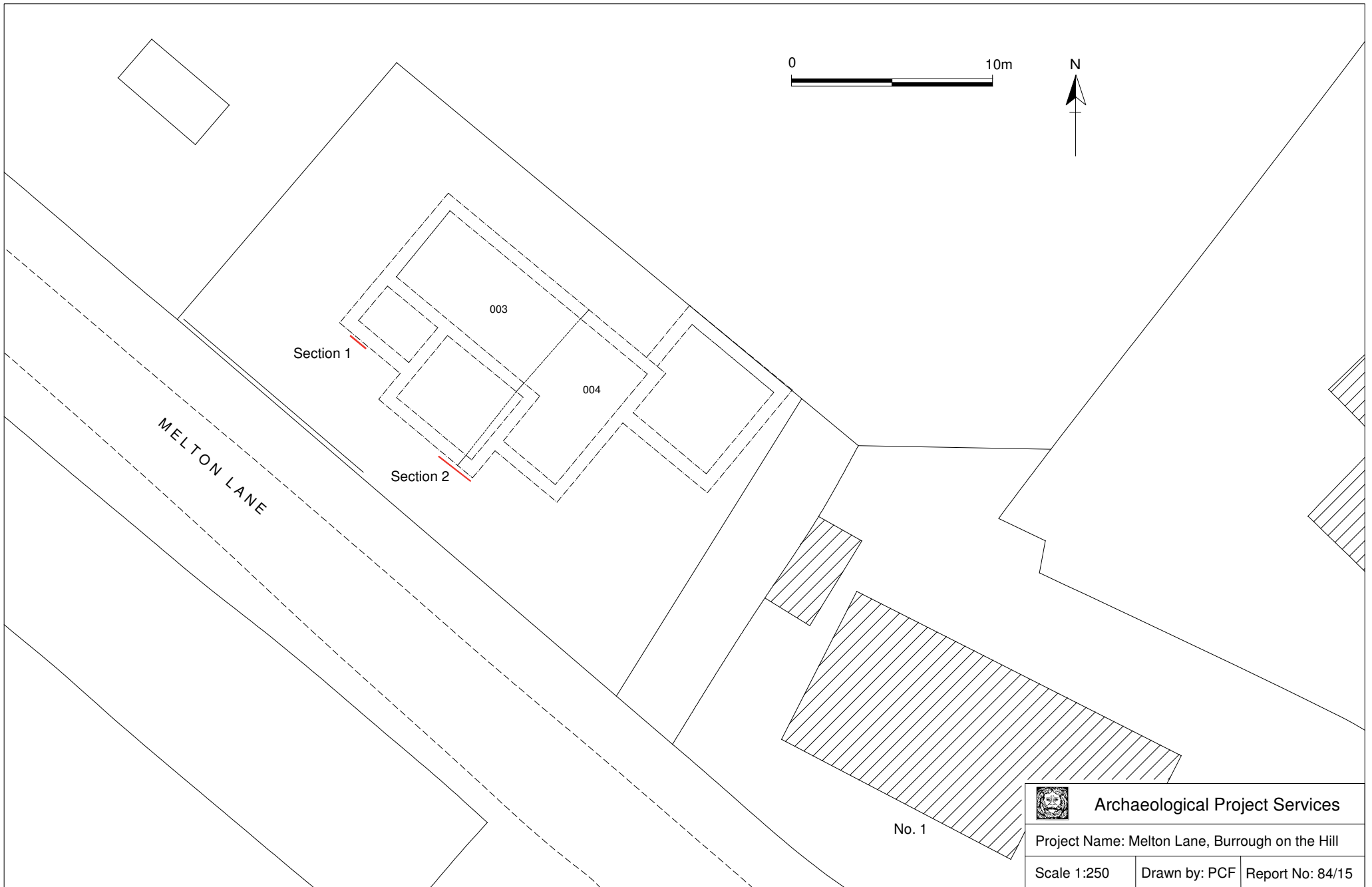



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

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Scale 1:250	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 84/15





## Appendix 4

### OASIS RECORD SHEET

<b>OASIS ID: archaeol1-222947</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	2 Melton Lane, burrough on the Hill
Short description of the project	Negative watching brief with no finds retrieved/
Project dates	Start: 04-09-2015 End: 04-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BHML15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A65.2015 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE MELTON SOMERBY 2 Melton Lane, Burrough on the Hill
Study area	168 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 7548 1570 52.73332057827 -0.882034431303 52 43 59 N 000 52 55 W Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project director/manager	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project supervisor	Jim Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No

Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A65.2015
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 Melton Lane, Burrough on the Hill, Somerby, Leicestershire (BHML 15)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cope-Faulkner, P.
Other bibliographic details	84/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington, Sleaford
Description	A4 comb-bound