

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD REPORT:  
LAND OFF MAIN STREET, ASHBY PARVA  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 11/00398/FUL  
NGR: SP 5285 8828  
AAL Site Code: APMS 12  
Museum Accession Number: X.A84.2012  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-134680



Report prepared for Mr D Gooch

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number AAL 2012102

November 2012



Allenarchaeology



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### **Executive Summary**

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr D Gooch to undertake an archaeological strip map and record on land off Main Street in Ashby Parva, Leicestershire.
- The site lies within an area of some archaeological potential, with scattered evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity. The site is situated within the historic core of the medieval village of Ashby Parva.
- The fieldwork identified a small number of undated pits and postholes, as well as two linear boundary features, producing pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. These features correspond to a boundary shown on historic mapping until at least the 1980s.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr D Gooch to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record in advance of a proposed development on land off Main Street, Ashby Parva in Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists *'Standard and guidance for archaeological excavations'* (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008) and the English Heritage document *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage 2006). The works also followed the guidelines set out in a brief prepared by the Historic and Natural Environment Team at Leicestershire County Council (HNET 2011) and the specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within six months of the completion of the project and will be stored under the Museum Accession Number X.A84.2012.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Ashby Parva is situated in the administrative district of Harborough District Council, approximately 17km south-southwest of central Leicester and 4km north-northwest of Lutterworth. The proposed development area is located in the centre of the village, to the east of Main Street and south of Dunton Lane, and centres on NGR SP 5285 8828.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area consists of Penarth Group Mudstone, with a superficial geology of Oadby Member Diamiction (glacial till/boulder clay) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Harborough District Council granted planning permission in October 2012 for the *'Erection of a two storey detached dwelling'* (Reference 11/00398/FUL). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording in advance of development, to fully characterise the nature and extent of the surviving archaeological resource.
- 3.2 This decision was in line with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being *'Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared in 2007 (Parker 2007), in advance of a proposed residential development of the adjacent properties (Elliot and Brixton) and the current development site. The information presented below is a summary of this data.
- 4.2 Prehistoric and Roman activity in the area is represented by dispersed finds scatters, generally at some distance from the site, although a Roman coin of the Emperor Hadrian was recovered c.350m northwest of the current site.
- 4.3 No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity is recorded in the vicinity of the site, although the village appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD, suggesting some form of settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. The site is situated within the area of the historic medieval core of the settlement, with the 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St. Peter located c.450m to the northwest. Earthworks of probable medieval house platforms, a possible moated enclosure and boundary features are recorded c.200m and 450m to the northwest, and c.200m to the north.
- 4.4 The site lies to the rear of two cottages, known as Elliot and Brixton. Elliot is a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottage with brick infill, and Brixton is a red brick cottage of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of extensions to the two properties in 2008, exposing only modern topsoil, subsoil and the natural geology (Farnworth-Jones 2008).

#### **5.0 Methodology**

- 5.1 The fieldwork comprised an archaeological strip, map and record of the footprint of the proposed development. The site was stripped on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological monitoring. Topsoil, subsoil and underlying non archaeological deposits were removed in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness until the natural geology or first archaeological horizon was exposed. All further excavation was undertaken by hand.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:10, 1:20 and 1:100). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, with an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2. Two digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. posthole [04]).

#### **6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 3)**

- 6.1 A modern topsoil 01, measuring approximately 0.40m thick was removed by machine. It sealed a subsoil 02 comprising firm mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional modern ceramic building material (brick and tile, hereafter CBM) fragments and moderate stone pebbles, which had a maximum thickness of c.0.3m, and was also removed by machine.

- 6.2 All features on the site were sealed by the subsoil 02. A group of three postholes; [04], [06] and [08] were recorded at the northernmost end of the site. The first two were sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope to a moderately flat base. Both contained a compact mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate natural flint fragments, manganese and rootlets. Around the sides and within the infill were moderately large rounded cobbles, presumed to be packing stones. The third posthole [08] was very shallow at c.0.05m deep and was probably truncated by later activity on the site.
- 6.3 Approximately 2.5m to the south was a single sub-circular pit [12] with an approximate diameter of 0.6m, with sharp to gradual sloping sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. It was backfilled with very compact mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate small pebbles, occasional larger pebbles were again recorded around the sides and base of the feature.
- 6.4 Three metres south of the pit were two east – west aligned gullies [10] and [16]. Both had steep sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base and contained similar fills of brown sandy clay, 11 and 17 respectively. Dating evidence from [10] comprised 13 sherds of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, a single late 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and a single 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd. The fill of gully [16] contained two sherds of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 6.5 South of the two gullies was a single undated kidney-shaped shallow pit [14] with irregular sides and base. It contained an undated fill, 15 comprising firm mid brown sandy clay with manganese flecks.
- 6.6 At the southern end of the site a spread of gravel and brick rubble 18 was encountered, probably representing a surface or track associated with the adjacent gate into the field. The extent of this layer was recorded after which it was removed by machine.
- 6.7 The spread sealed, and all other features cut through, the natural geology 03, consisting of compact mottled light grey clay and mid orange sandy clay with pebbles, manganese and flint fragments.

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 7.1 The archaeological strip map and record scheme revealed a small number of undated pits and postholes within the proposed development area as well as two parallel gullies that produced dating evidence of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date as well as a single residual medieval sherd.
- 7.2 The gullies are likely to represent a boundary shown on historic mapping from 1887 to at least 1985, perhaps either side of a central hedge. Ordnance Survey mapping does not indicate the presence of any structures on the site, suggesting that the pits and postholes are likely to predate the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The strip, map and record methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the proposed development area contains a small number of features of limited local significance.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr D Gooch for this commission.

## 10.0 References

AAL 2012, *Specification for an archaeological strip, map and record: Main Street, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire*. Allen Archaeology Ltd

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London

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Farnworth-Jones, G., 2008, *An historic building photographic survey and archaeological watching brief on land at Elliot and Brixton, Main Street/Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 528 882)*, University of Leicester Archaeological Services report number 2008/176

HNET, 2011, *Brief for archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample)*, Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council

IfA, 1995 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavations*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Parker, M., 2007, *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land adjacent to Elliot and Brixton, Main Street/Dunton Lane, Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (SP 527 883)*, University of Leicester Archaeological Services report number 2007/056



**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** General site shot, looking southeast. Scales are 1m



**Plate 2:** Representative shot of posthole [06], looking southwest. Scales are 0.3m and 0.1m



**Plate 3:** East northeast facing section of gully [10], looking west-southwest. Scales are 1m and 0.5m

## Appendix 2: Pottery Report

By Anne Irving

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001).

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

### Condition

Most of the pottery appears to be re-deposited and shows signs of abrasion.

### Results

Table 1, Archive of the pottery

Cxt	Cname	Leic Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
011	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Bowl	1	1	250	Rim		Mid 16th to 18th
011	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Bowl	3	1	205	Rim		Mid 16th to 18th
011	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Jar/ bowl	3	3	80	BS		Mid 16th to 18th
011	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Jar/ bowl	4	4	114	BS	Abraded	Mid 16th to 18th
011	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Jar/ bowl	2	1	58	BS		Mid 16th to 18th
011	PEARL	EA9	Pearl ware	Open	2	1	8	BS	Chinoiserie	Late 18th to 19th
011	MEDLOC	-	Medieval local fabrics	Jug/ jar	1	1	19	BS	OX/R/OX fine silty but vesicular background with abundant sub-angular fe up to 3mm + common 'cokey' black inclusions + common to frequent sub-angular to sub-round quartz 0.1 to 0.3mm + occasional granitic inclusions.	13th to 15th
017	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Jar/ bowl	1	1	45	BS		Mid 16th to 18th
017	BL	EA6	Black-glazed wares	Jar/ bowl	1	1	34	BS		Mid 16th to 18th

### Potential

All the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

**CONTEXT DATES**

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 2, Spot dates*

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Date</b>
011	Late 18th to 19th
017	Mid 16th to 18th

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

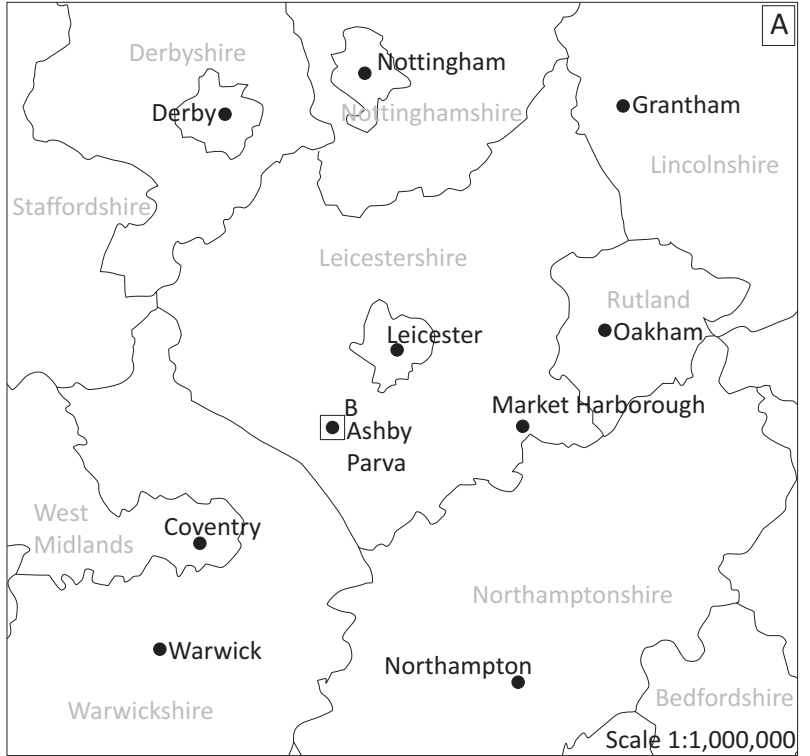
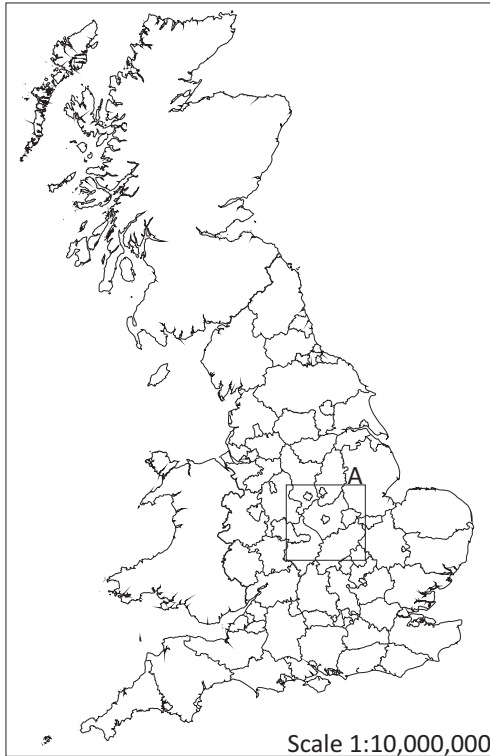
**REFERENCES**

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

**Appendix 3: Context Summary List***CBM = Ceramic Building Material (e.g. brick and tile)*

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Moderately firm very dark brown silty clay, seals 02	Modern topsoil/garden soil
02	Layer	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional modern CBM, moderate pebbles. Sealed by 01, seals 03	Subsoil
03	Layer	Compact and firm mix of light grey clay and mid orange sand and sandy clay with stone pebbles, manganese and flint fragments, sealed by 02	Natural geology
04	Cut	Sub-circular feature with steep, near vertical sloping sides to sharp break of slope to flat base, contains 05	Cut of stone packed posthole
05	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate natural flint flakes and manganese with sub rounded cobbles around the sides and top	Backfill of [04] with packing stones
06	Cut	Sub circular feature with near vertical sides and flat base, contains 07	Cut of stone packed posthole
07	Fill	Firm and compact mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate natural flint fragments, manganese, frequent rootlets with sub rounded cobbles	Backfill of [06] with packing stones
08	Cut	Circular feature with shallow steep sides and flat base, contains 09	Cut of shallow truncated posthole
09	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional stone fragments and manganese flecks	Backfill of [08]
10	Cut	E-W aligned linear with steep sloping sides to moderate sharp break of slope to moderate flat base, contains 11	Cut of linear boundary ditch
11	Fill	Moderate firm mid brown sandy clay with CBM and pot, stone fragments and manganese flecks	Natural silting of ditch [10]
12	Cut	Sub-rectangular feature with steep sides and gradual break of slope to rounded base, contains 13	Cut of pit
13	Fill	Very compact mid brown grey sandy clay with moderate small pebbles, natural flint fragments and rounded pebbles at the base	Backfill of pit [12]
14	Cut	Kidney shed feature with gradual sloping sides and slight curved base, contains 15	Cut of pit
15	Fill	Firm mid brow sandy clay with manganese flecks	Natural silting of pit [14]
16	Cut	E-W aligned narrow linear with steep sloping sides sharp breaks of slope to flat base, contains 17	Cut of ditch
17	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy clay with moderate stone fragments and manganese	Natural silting of ditch [16]
18	Layer	Poorly sorted coarse gravel, rounded cobbles and brick rubble	Possible surface or track near to site entrance



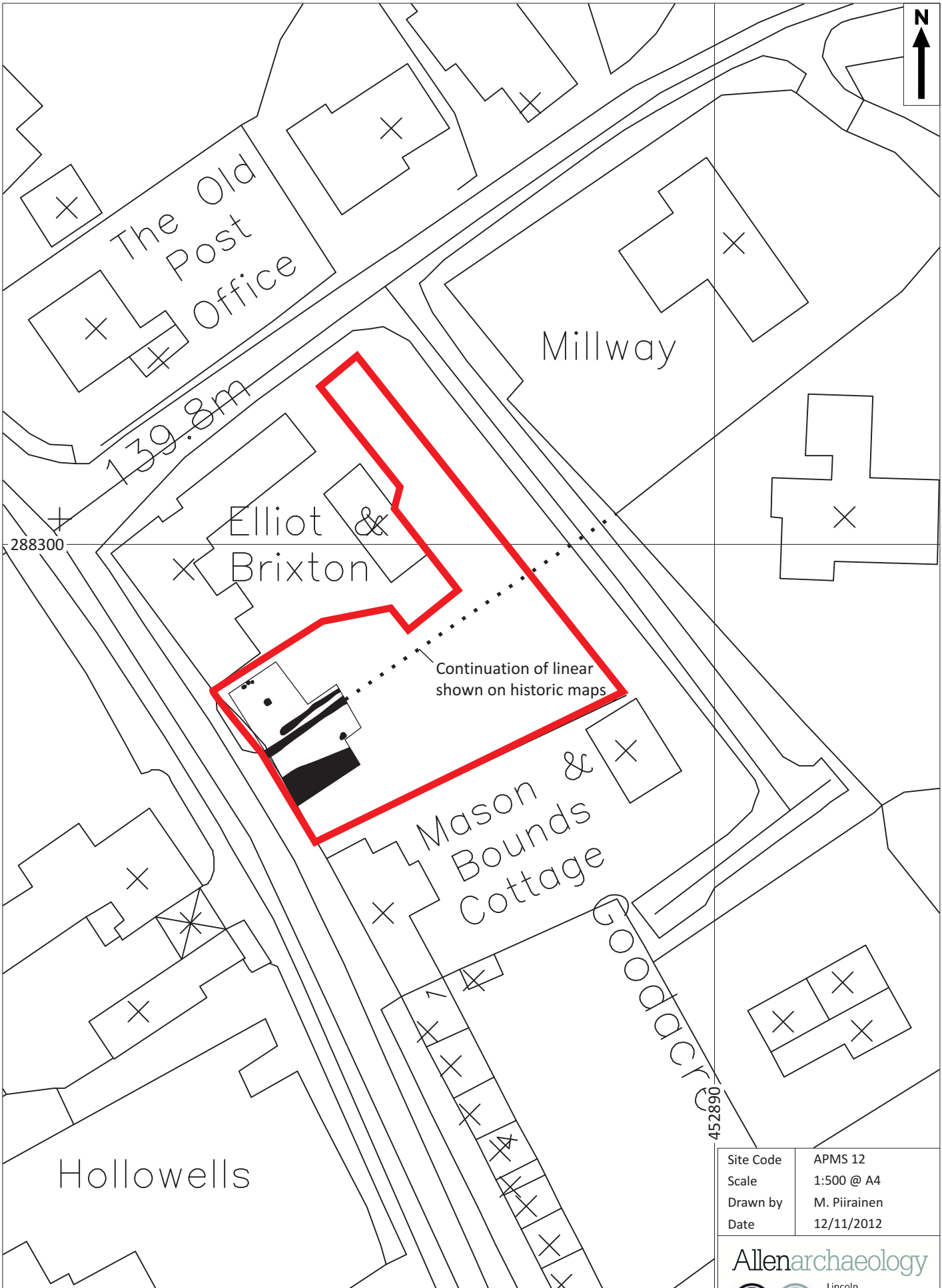


**Figure 1: Site location outlined in red**

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Site Code	APMS 12
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Piirainen
Date	12/11/12

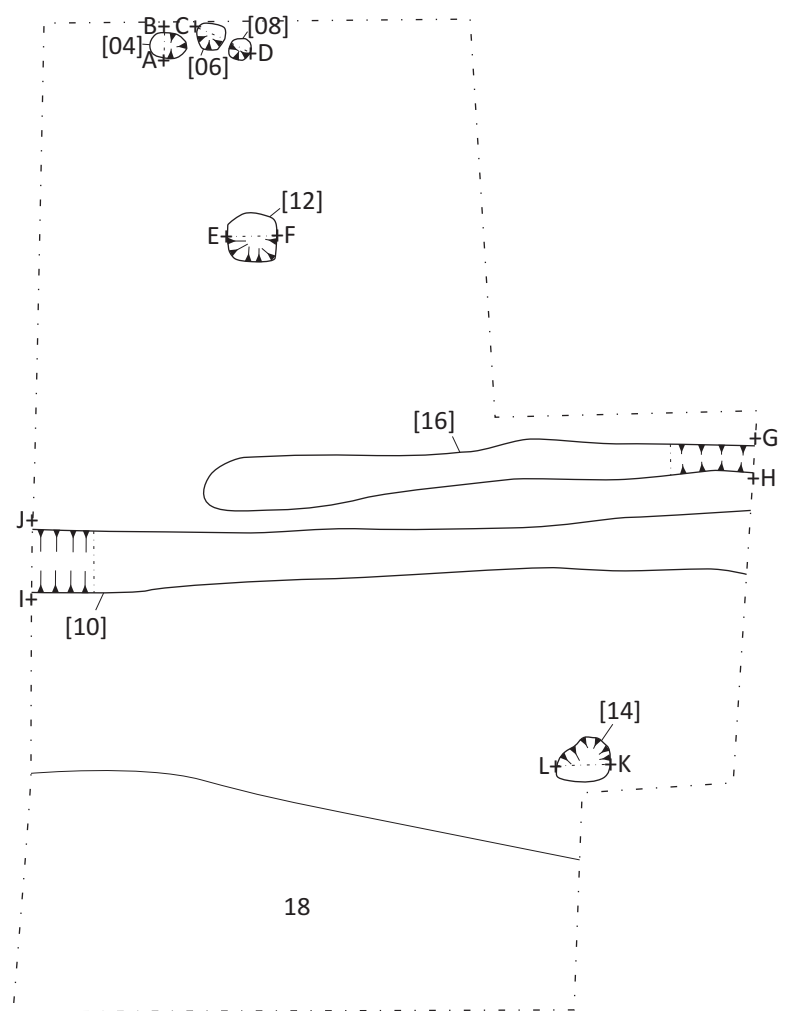
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**Figure 2:** Site location plan with the site outlined in red showing the proposed development with superimposed archaeology in black  
 (Base plan provided by the client)

Site Code	APMS 12
Scale	1:500 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	12/11/2012

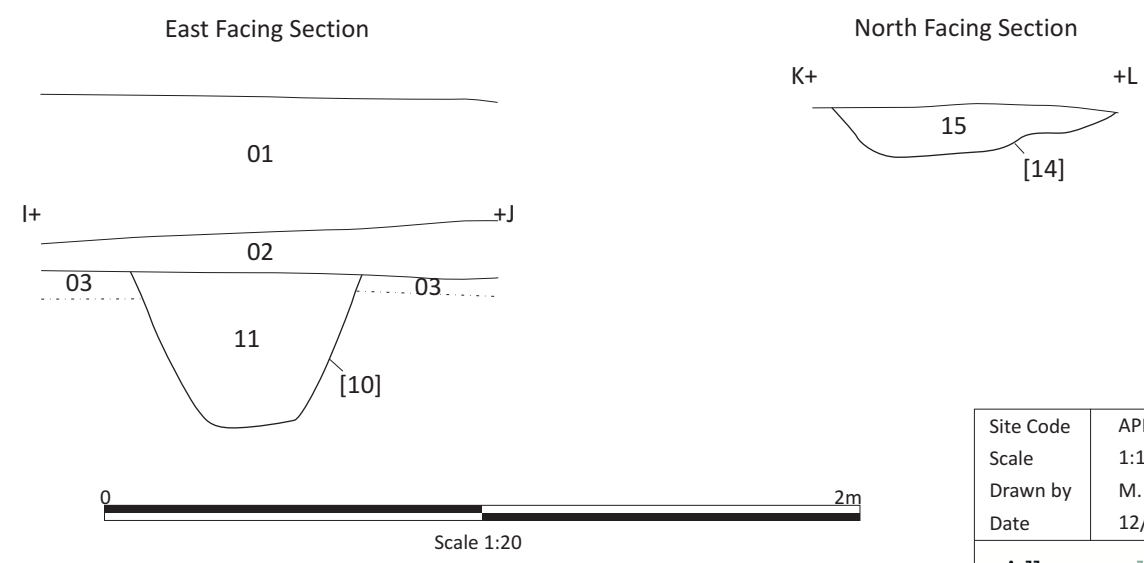
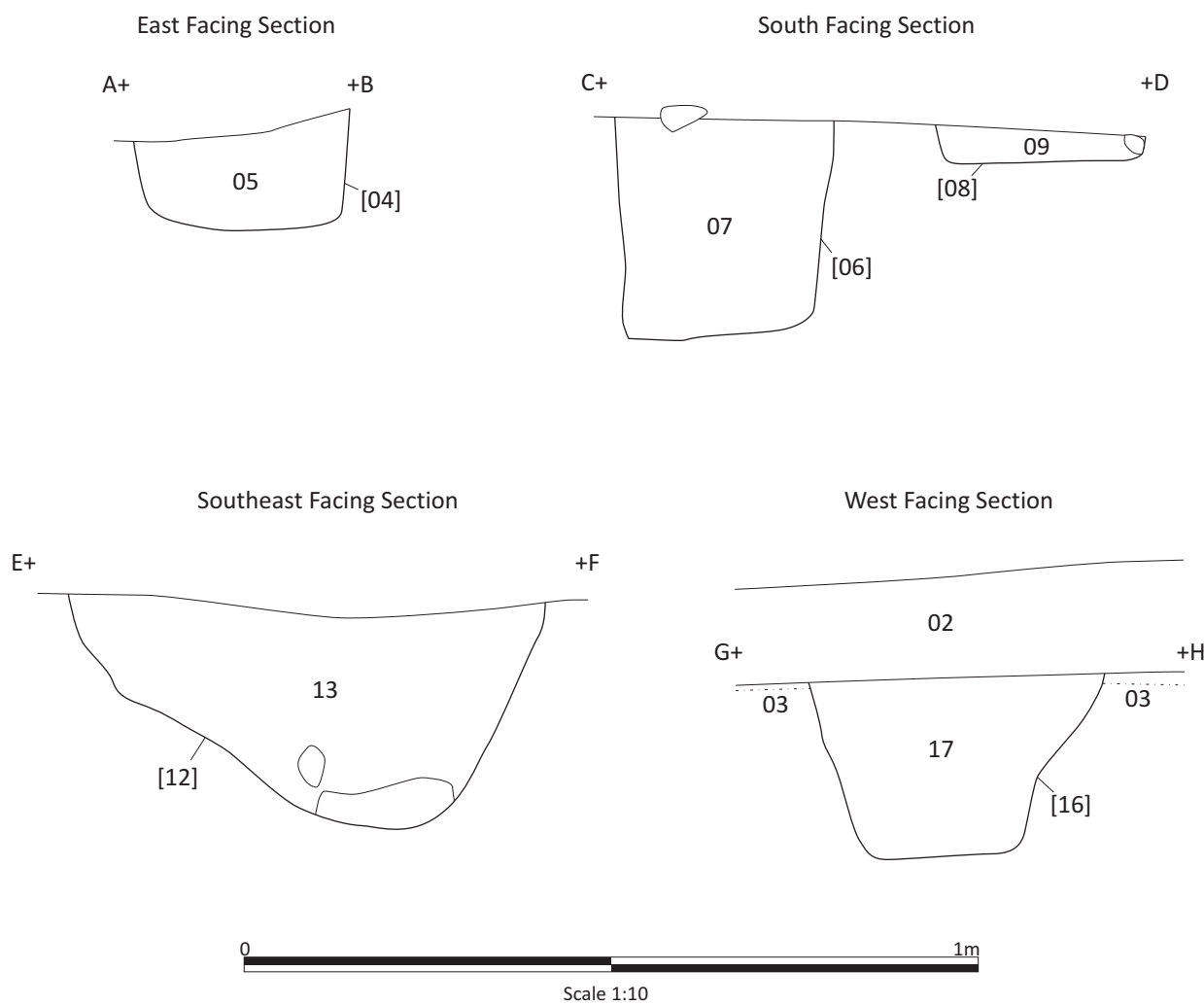
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Site Code	APMS 12
Scale	1:100 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	12/11/2012

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**Figure 3:** Plan of excavated area. Sections AB - KL shown on Figure 4



Site Code	APMS 12
Scale	1:10, 1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	12/11/2012

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**Figure 4:** Sections, located on Figure 3





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