

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD REPORT:  
LAND AT ORCHARD SCHOOL, LONDON ROAD, BALDERTON, NEWARK-ON-TRENT,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 18/02048/FULR3N  
NGR: SK 8139 5248  
AAL Site Code: NELR 18  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-347094



Report prepared for Arc Partnership

By  
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Report Number AAL 2019050

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Allenarchaeology



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*Cover image: Stripping within Area 1, looking northeast*

## Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Arc Partnership to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record exercise as part of a condition for planning permission for the demolition of the present buildings on site, and the construction of a new school building and a replacement day care centre on land at Orchard School, London Road, Balderton, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.
- The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, with prehistoric activity recorded nearby. Balderton is listed in the Domesday Book as a very large settlement. Evidence of medieval activity is somewhat limited, but ridge and furrow has been identified in the area to the north of the site.
- During the post-medieval period, Newark and the surrounding area was the focus for activity during the English Civil War, and earthworks from this period are evident close to the site.
- The strip, map and record methodology was applied over two small areas (Area 1 and 2), with both areas being found to be archaeologically sterile. Whilst the area stripped has revealed a dearth of archaeological material, it should be noted that some areas of the site was not accessible and therefore the entire footprint of the development area has not been investigated.
- Due to the lack of any archaeology revealed within the stripped areas, it is likely that the rest of the site is also archaeologically sterile and that potentially any archaeological features which could have been present were removed when the school buildings were originally constructed at the end of the 1960's.
- However, this extrapolation does not preclude the potential for small, isolated areas of archaeological activity to exist within the unstripped areas of site.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Arc Partnership to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record as a condition of planning consent for the demolition of the present buildings on site, and the construction of a new school building and a replacement day care centre on land at Orchard School, London Road, Balderton, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological excavations' (CIfA 2014), the Historic England document 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015) and a specification by this company (AAL 2019).
- 1.3 Digital copies of the report will be sent to the client, to the Local Planning Authority, and to the Historic Environment Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council, advising Newark and Sherwood District Council. A summary account on the results of the investigation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Balderton, Newark, in the administrative district of Newark and Sherwood District Council. It is situated c.2.2km southeast of the centre of the town and c.26.7km northeast of Nottingham. The site is approximately 11.3 hectares and is presently occupied by the buildings of Grove Leisure Centre, the remains of a late Victorian villa and an athletics pitch. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 81391 52489 and is c.20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises mudstones of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of the Balderton Sand and Gravel Member (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for the following:

*Demolition of Day Centre building. Construction of Orchard School (two phase development) and replacement Day Service both with external lighting and CCTV, ancillary outdoor facilities including drop-off, entrance and Early Years canopies, car parking (including 4m lighting columns), lit service areas, 2.4m high perimeter fencing and internal fencing not exceeding 2.4m. Demolition of an existing school building and former caretakers house, and subsequent provision of outdoor play spaces including new tarmac surface multi-use games area (enclosed by 3.0m fencing), timber shed, resurfacing of existing play surface for the new school, sprinkler tank with 3.7m timber fence enclosure and associated landscape works*

- 3.2 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. The planning condition is:

*8. No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological mitigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the CPA. Development shall proceed in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: To ensure that suitable investigation is undertaken in order to understand the archaeological significance of the site.*

3.3 The notes to applicant states that:

*With reference to Condition 8, the scheme of archaeological mitigation will require site supervision with strip map and sample where necessary to record items of archaeological interest encountered.*

3.4 The specification (AAL 2019) was produced to fulfil the first part of planning condition 8.

3.5 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018).

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

4.1 A desk-based assessment was previously produced for the site and this archaeological and historical background is a summary taken from that document (AAL 2018).

4.2 The earliest activity in the study area dates to the Neolithic period and comprises early to middle Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery, found c.740m northwest of the site. Further Bronze Age finds include a Bronze Age hoard and two Bronze Age flint scrapers, suggesting a possible focus of prehistoric activity within the Balderton area. Several flint flakes of a broadly prehistoric date have also been identified southeast of the site.

4.3 Evidence of Roman activity within the search area is limited, with the route of the A46 Fosse Way located on the opposite side of Newark. A record exists of four urns filled with Roman coins and a brass figurine recorded northwest of the site although it has been suggested that the urns may be associated with an otherwise unknown Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

4.4 The site is located to the northwest of the historic core of Balderton, in an area referred to as 'New Balderton'. 'Balderton' is potentially a place name of mixed origin with the first element '*Baldhere*' being a personal name with possible Nordic associations, and the second element '*tūn*' meaning enclosure, farmstead or settlement in Old English (Watts 2007).

4.5 Balderton is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 with two name variants; '*Baldretone*' and '*Buldretune*' and was a very large settlement.

4.6 Medieval activity in the study area is represented by a silver penny of Henry III, a silver penny of Edward III, a medieval bridge boss, once adorning a bridge and an iron spearhead. Remains of ridge and furrow have been identified in the LiDAR imagery of the area north of the site and this may have been part of the field systems associated with Coddington, another medieval village which was located to the northeast of Balderton.

4.7 During the post-medieval period, Newark and the surrounding area was a focus of activity during the English Civil War, in particular the Siege of Newark between 1645 and 1646, with the first line of circumvallation, the offensive siege line, and the troop's barracks immediately north of the site boundary. These circumvallation lines were constructed to prevent communication between those besieged in Newark and possible relieving troops. Further Civil War earthwork remains exist, or existed, within the search area.

- 4.8 Post-medieval buildings include a summer house associated with a larger estate or house and garden.
- 4.9 Early 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping suggests the site was undeveloped agricultural land with no significant development until 1968 when a 'street map' depicts the Grove School and Sports Complex.

## 5.0 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the work are as follows:

- To identify and record all archaeological features and artefacts exposed in advance of construction work in the agreed areas
- To determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered
- To determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered
- To recover dating evidence from the archaeological features wherever possible
- To establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site
- To retrieve the environmental evidence relating to environment and economy of the site
- To retrieve environmental and technological evidence relating to any industrial activity on the site
- To identify any spatial distribution of activity, either with regard to cut features or surface finds
- To interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the site and surrounding area
- To recover data that will provide information relating to the social character of the site, if possible, its status, function and economy and environment
- To provide data to enhance the regional chronological framework, through analysis of the material culture and selective scientific dating if applicable

## 6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 The strip, map and record applied to one area within the footprint of the proposed new school and day care centre (Area 1), and a second smaller area to the southwest of the proposed new building (Area 2) (Figure 2).
- 6.2 Within the site, topsoil, subsoil and other non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator in spits not exceeding 0.1m in thickness down to the first archaeological or natural horizon. The machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist. No machinery was allowed to track across stripped areas at any time during the archaeological works.
- 6.3 The excavation areas were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale and located using a Leica GS08 Net rover GPS receiving RTK corrections, with all features and deposits recorded on standard AAL context sheets, with plans and section drawings drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50). Photographs formed an integral part of the recording methodology, with all photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow.
- 6.4 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 1.

## 7.0 Results

- 7.1 The earliest deposit encountered was an orange yellow gravelly sand natural, 102, which was sealed by a 0.20m thick mid/dark brown silty sand subsoil, 101. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick very dark brown sandy silt topsoil, 100. These deposits were identified in both Areas 1 and 2. Both areas were devoid of any archaeological features (Figure 2, Figure 3, Plate 1 to Plate 4).



*Plate 1: Northwest-facing representative section of Area 1, scale 1m*



*Plate 2: Northwest-facing representative section of Area 2, scale 1m*



*Plate 3: View across Area 1 looking west, scales 2 x 1m*



*Plate 4: View across Area 2 looking southwest, scales 2 x 1m*

## **8.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 8.1 The strip, map and record was undertaken to assess the potential for archaeological remains on the site and to understand the likely impact of the development. No archaeological features were revealed within either Area 1 or Area 2.
- 8.2 The strip, map and record was completed across the areas available at the time rather than the entire area identified for development. Some areas across the site were not accessible due to extant buildings, live services and trees which have protection orders.



## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The archaeological methodology was broadly appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development although hindered by the amount of accessible land for stripping, which reduced the efficacy of the strip, map and record.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Arc Partnership for this commission and for their cooperation during the site works.

## 11.0 References

AAL, 2018, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Orchard School, London Road, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire*, Unpublished Client Report Ref AAL2018125

AAL, 2019, *Specification for a programme of archaeological monitoring and evaluation: Land at Orchard School, London Road, Balderton, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire*. Allen Archaeology Ltd. Unpublished project document

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Watts, V, 2007, *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names: Based on the Collections of the English Place-Name Society*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

### Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Moderately compact, very dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones			0.25	Topsoil
101	Layer	Well compacted, mid/dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions			0.20	Subsoil
102	Layer	Moderately compact, orange yellow gravelly sand				Natural

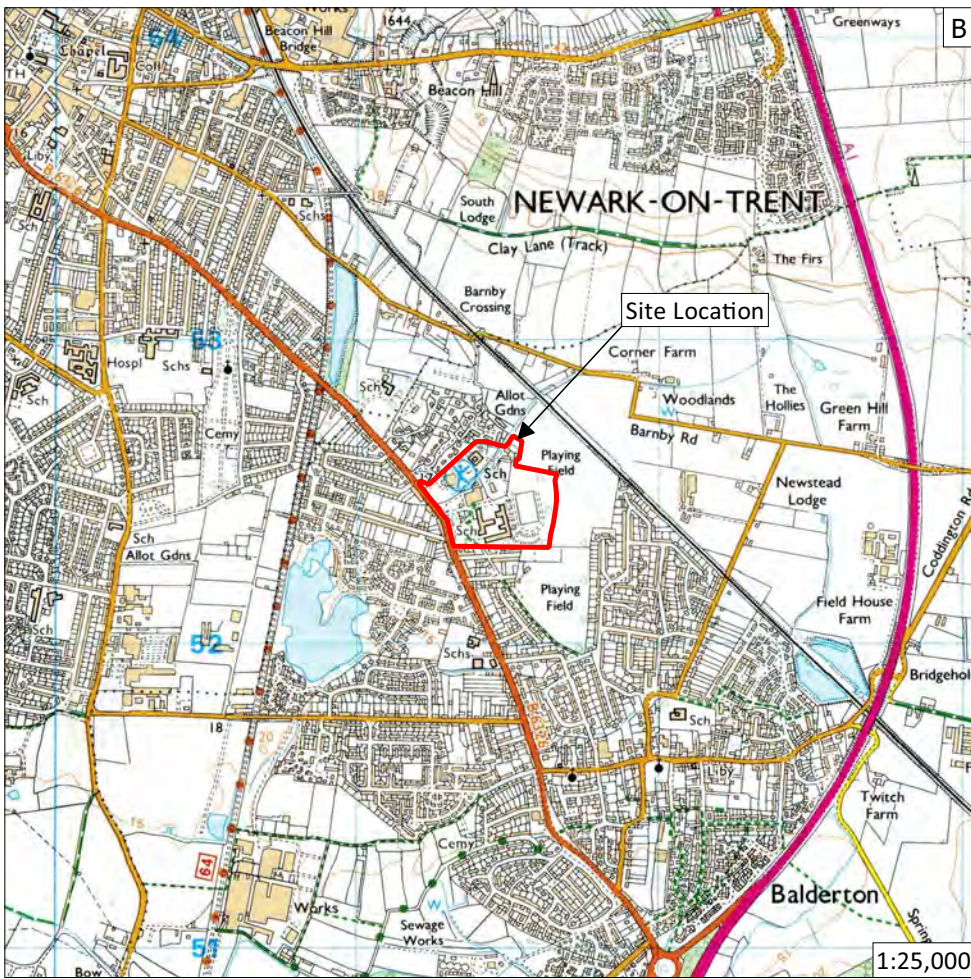
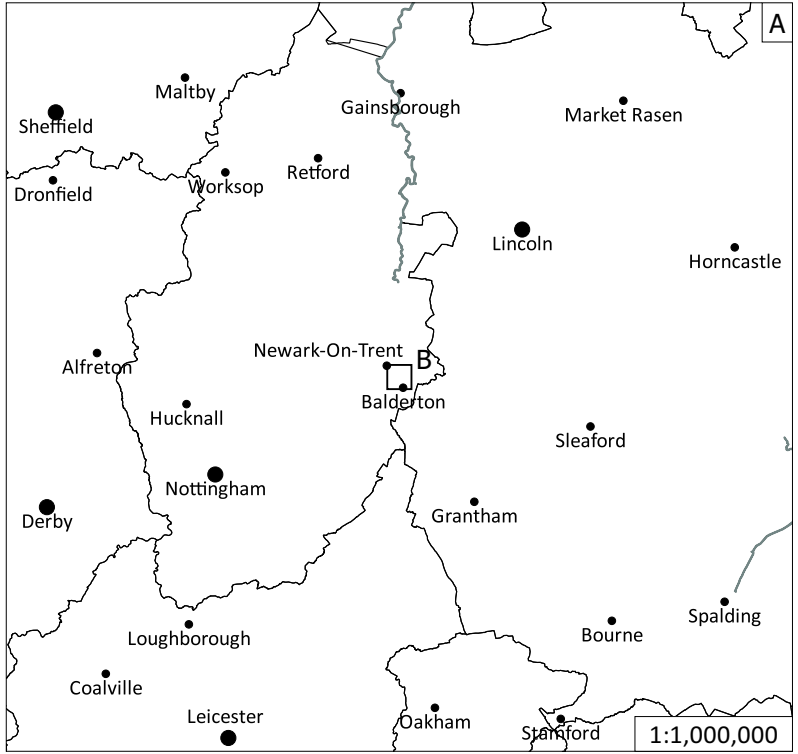
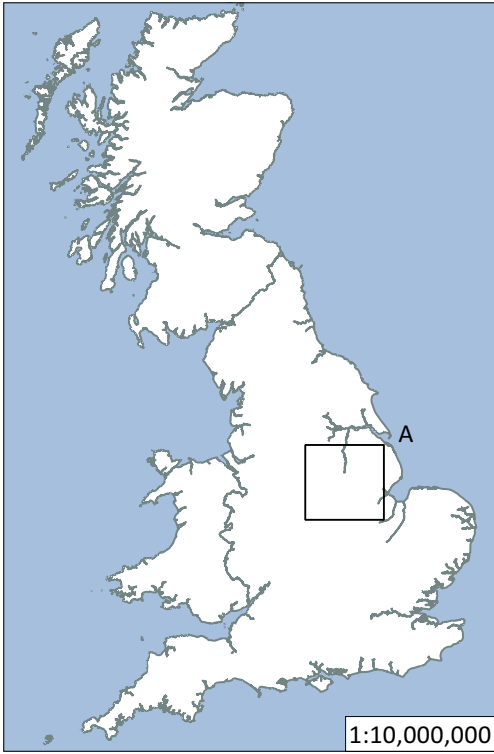


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	NELR 18
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	H Tesseyman
Date	27/03/2019

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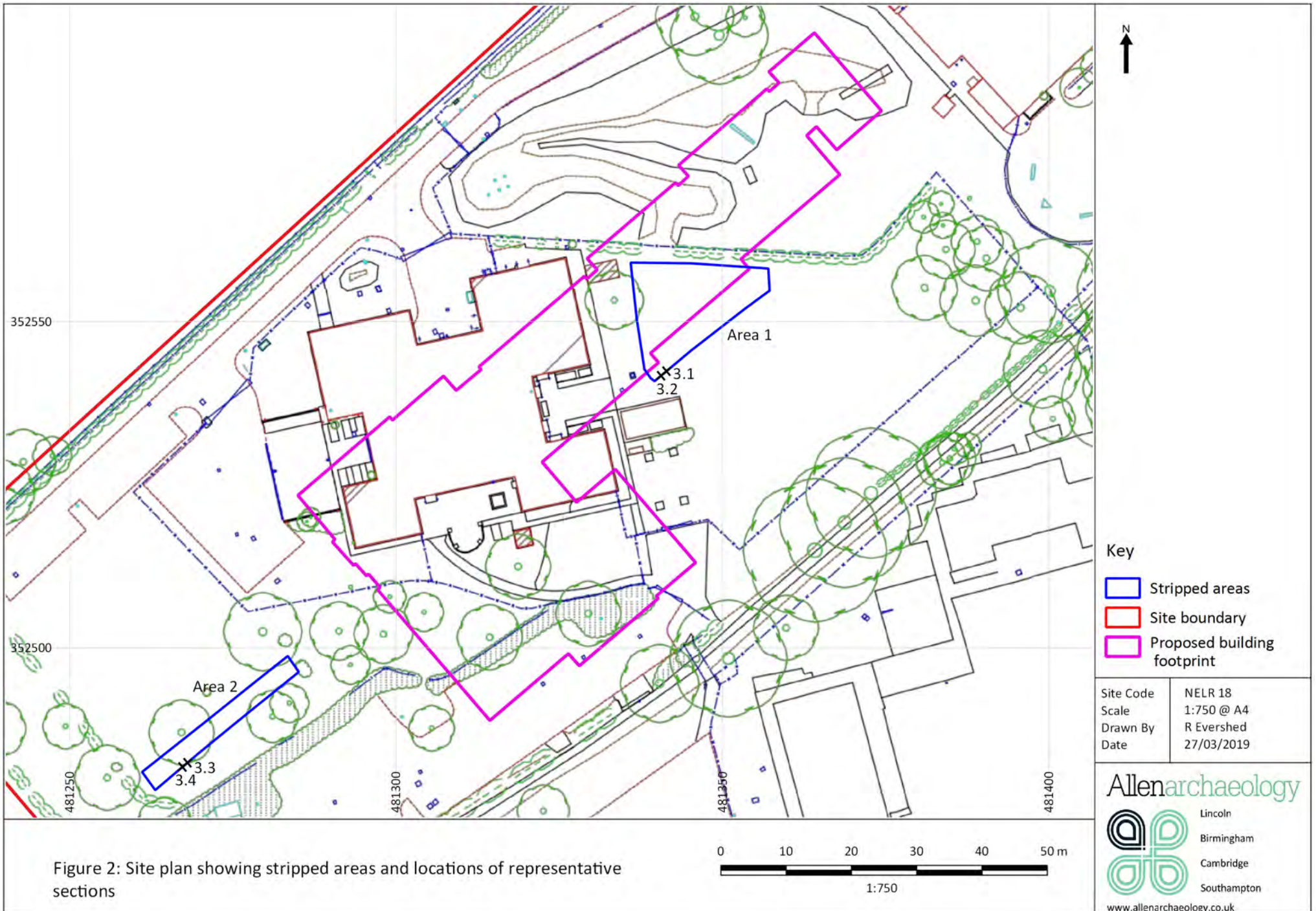


Figure 2: Site plan showing stripped areas and locations of representative sections

**Key**

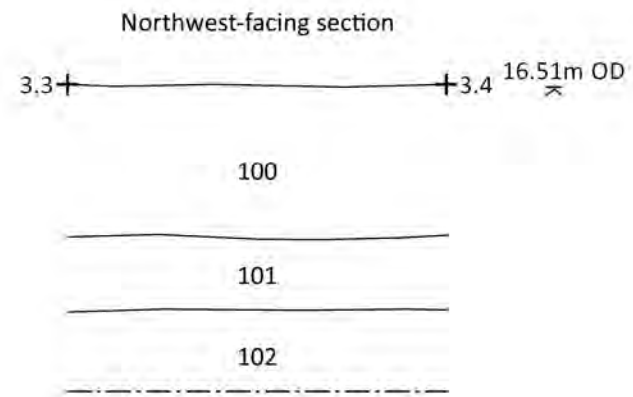
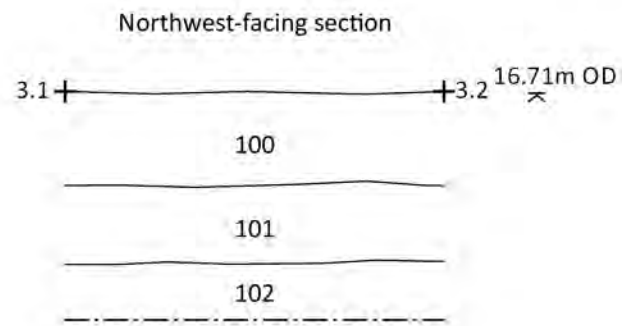
- Stripped areas
- Site boundary
- Proposed building footprint

Site Code	NELR 18
Scale	1:750 @ A4
Drawn By	R Evershed
Date	27/03/2019

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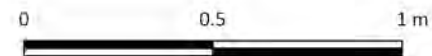
Site Code	NELR 18
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	R Evershed
Date	27/03/2019

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Figure 3: Representative sections from Figure 2





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