

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT:
LAND AT FARLEYS FARM, TUXFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 21/00535/FUL
NGR: SK 7092 7100
AAL Site Code: TUFF 21
Museum Accession Number: To be issued upon deposition
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-433524



Report prepared for R & JC Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL2021121

November 2021



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Contents

Executive Summary	3
1.0 Introduction.....	4
2.0 Site Location and Description.....	4
3.0 Planning Background.....	4
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
5.0 Aims and Objectives	5
6.0 Methodology	5
7.0 Results	6
8.0 Discussion and Conclusions.....	7
9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.....	7
10.0 Acknowledgements	7
11.0 References.....	8

List of Plates

Plate 1: The house footings, looking northeast.....	6
Plate 2 Representative section of deposits, looking east.....	7

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Summary List	9
Appendix 2: Figures	10

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red	10
Figure 2: Site plan and representative section.....	11

Document Control

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Version no.:	1.0	03/11/2021

Cover image: The site, looking northeast

Executive Summary

- R & JC Limited commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Farleys Farm, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire, as a condition of planning consent for a residential development.
- The site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Prehistoric activity has been recorded in the area in the form of flint scatters of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date. Works on the site of new poultry sheds to the immediate northeast recorded a small assemblage of prehistoric flint as well as medieval and later manuring.
- Monitoring was undertaken during groundworks for a new dwelling and garage. No archaeological features were noted during groundworks, nor were any lithics recovered. The sequence exposed comprised topsoil, subsoil and natural geology.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 R & JC Limited commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Farleys Farm, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire, as a condition of planning consent for a residential development.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (2020a), and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (2015) and a specification prepared by AAL (AAL 2021).
- 1.3 The archive will be compiled in line with '*Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*' (AAF 2011) and '*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*' (CIfA 2020b) and will be submitted to Bassetlaw Museum, within twelve months of the completion of the report. An accession number will be allocated upon deposition of the archive.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Tuxford is within the Bassetlaw district of Nottinghamshire and is situated c.35km north-northeast of central Nottingham. The development area is c.2.9km west of the village, north of Ollerton Road. The site is currently agricultural land with woodland to the west, fields to the north and east and trackway to the south. The site is centred on NGR SK 7092 7100.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Mercia Mudstone, with a succession of sedimentary rocks (Penarth Group) formed in brackish and marine environments (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission (21/00535/FUL) has been granted for '*Erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling*' on land off Ollerton Road, Tuxford. As a condition of planning consent, a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording has been requested, during all groundworks for the development.
- 3.2 The approach adopted for the project is consistent with the recommendations of the 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 2021).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A large number of flint scatters have been recorded across an area of roughly one square mile in the vicinity of the site, around Farleys House and Westwood, and ranging in date from Mesolithic to Bronze Age (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record number M4617).
- 4.2 A subsequent programme of mitigation was undertaken, comprising fieldwalking and strip map and record. Eight hectares was fieldwalked, producing four prehistoric worked flints and a small assemblage of late medieval to early modern pottery and ceramic building material. The strip, map and record works did not identify any archaeological finds or features other than a single land drain.
- 4.3 The village of Tuxford is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *'Tuxfarne'*, which possibly originates from a personal name in Old English (Gover et al 1979).

5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to allow the preservation by record of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, where exposed by the groundworks.

6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 An experienced field archaeologist was present during all groundworks required as part of the development. The archaeologist acted strictly in accordance with national guidelines regarding archaeological monitoring and recording (CifA 2020a). Fieldwork was undertaken over two days, Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th October 2021.
- 6.2 During the fieldwork the monitoring archaeologist inspected all exposed plan and section surfaces, with a view to undertake the limited, rapid excavation of any archaeological remains for artefact recovery and clarity of the shape and orientation of the features. Topsoil and subsoil, and spoil heaps were also inspected for flint artefacts.
- 6.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, as appropriate.
- 6.4 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number) consisting of three digits and accorded a written description; a summary of these is included in Appendix 1.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 No archaeological features or deposits of interest were exposed within the house plot and garage footing excavations (Plate 1).



Plate 1: The house footings, looking northeast

- 7.2 The topsoil, 100, comprised a c.0.30m thick, friable mid brown clay silt with pebble inclusions, which sealed a compact red brown silty clay subsoil, 101, 0.28m in thickness, which also contained pebbles (Plate 2).
- 7.3 Beneath 101 was a shallow compact blue silt layer, 102, interpreted as a naturally formed alluvial layer, only 0.03m in thickness. This sealed a further geological deposit, a compact red orange silt, 103. This represented the earliest deposit to be exposed and other areas of the footing demonstrated that the geological deposits were a sequence of laminated bands. These layers are interpreted as being part of the Penarth Group mudstones, formed in a marine environment.



Plate 2: Representative section of deposits, looking east

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during monitoring and recording on land at Farleys Farm. The absence of features noted on this site and the very limited finds to the northeast, during archaeological work in preparation for the erection of poultry units, suggest the focus of any early prehistoric activity in the area, lay elsewhere.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the project; indicating that the development has not impacted upon the archaeological resource.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 AAL would like to thank R & JC Limited for the commission, and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

11.0 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2018, *Archaeological evaluation report: geophysical survey by magnetometry on land at Farleys Farm, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire*, Allen Archaeology. Limited report number 2018071

AAL, 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Land at Farleys Farm, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire*. Allen Archaeology Limited

CIfA, 2020a, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading

CIfA, 2020b, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading

Gover J.E.B, Mawer A., and Stenton F.M., 1979, *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire* Nottingham: English Place Name Society

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Archaeological Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. Historic England

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	A friable mid brown clay silt with pebble inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
101	Layer	A compact red brown silt clay			0.28	Subsoil
102	Layer	A compact blue silt			0.03	Natural geology
103	Layer	A compact red orange silt			>0.23	Natural geology

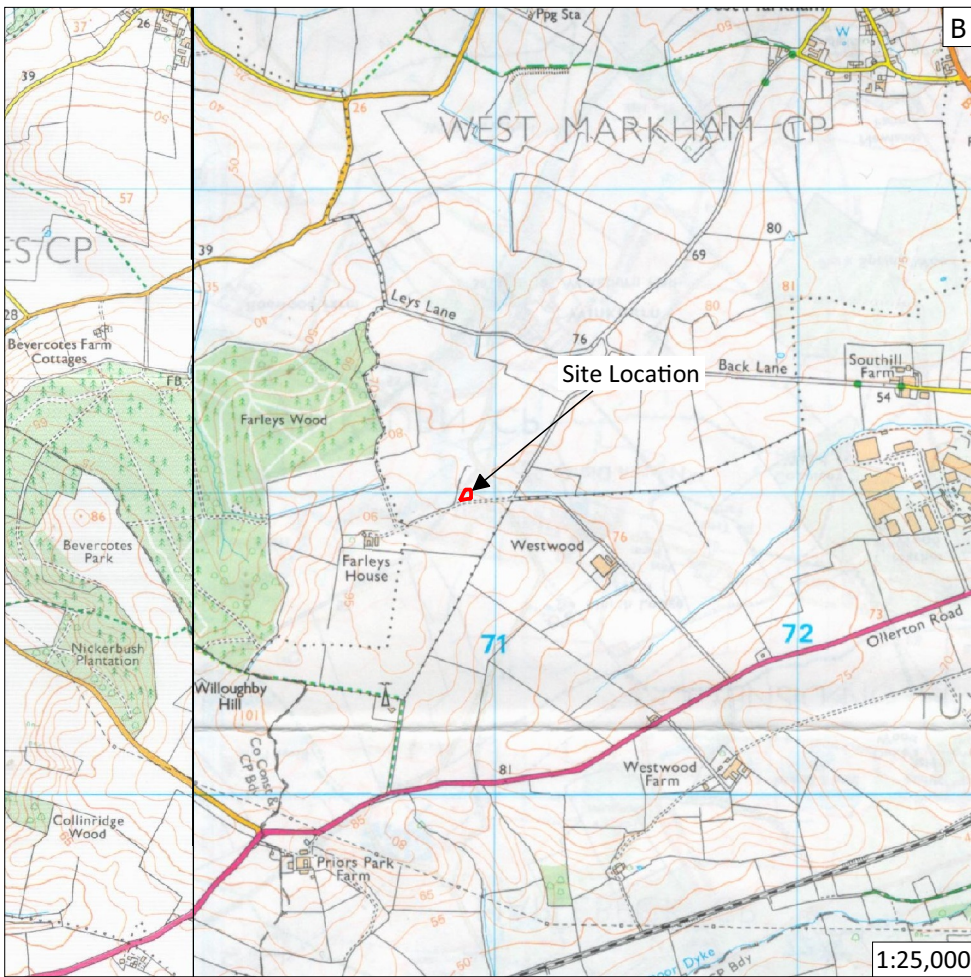
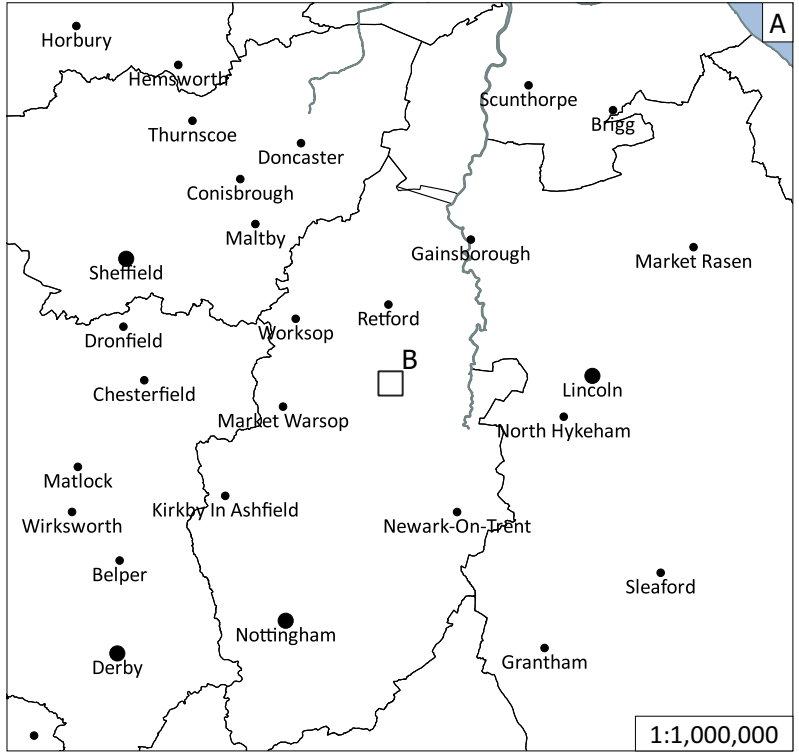
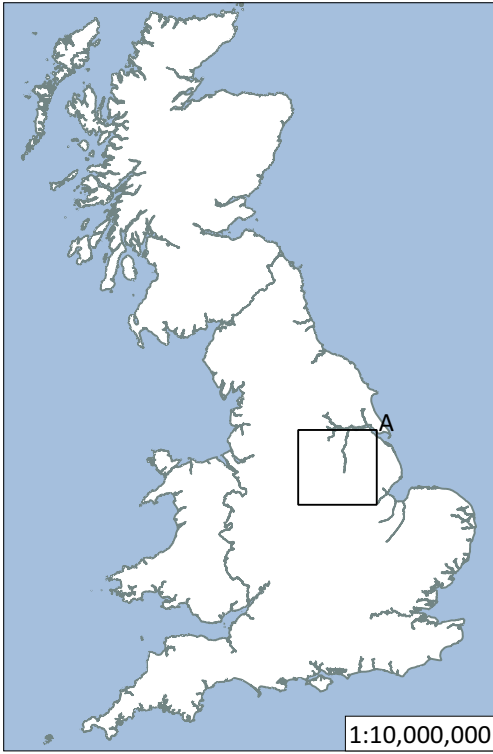


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	TUFF 21
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	01/11/2021

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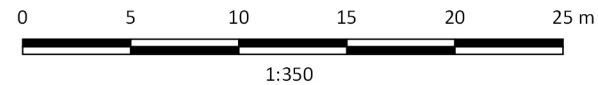


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Figure 2: Site plan and representative section



- Key
- + + Section
 - Areas monitored
 - Site boundary

Site Code	TUFF 21
Scale	1:350 & 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	V Zoppi
Date	03/11/2021

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