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Land at Retford Road, Walesby
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Report No. Y169/14

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Land at Retford Road, Walesby
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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. METHODS AND OBJECTIVES	3
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE	5
4. POTENTIAL IMPACTS	8
5. CONCLUSION	9
6. SOURCES CONSULTED	10

Appendices

Appendix 1: Heritage Assets within 1km of the Proposed Development Area

Figures

Figure 1: Site location and HER events and sites within 1km of centre point
SK 67997 71595

Plates

Plate 1: Development area with district boundary on right.

Plate 2: Development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on behalf of Stuart Harrison on land at Retford Road, Walesby to evaluate the effects on the cultural heritage resource by possible development works including the erection of log cabins and a children's play area.

1.1 Proposed Development

The aims of the proposed development are to erect six Romany Gypsy Log Cabins, access tracks and children's play area, including drain runs into the public sewer in Retford Road and a sewage treatment plant. These cabins are designed to be portable and will be sited on skids.

1.2 Site Description

The development area comprises a strip of ground in the southwest corner of a field located 1km north of the town of Walesby (Fig. 1), directly off Retford Road. The area lies within pasture to the south of Haughton Decoy. The proposed development area covers approximately 1.8 ha in total, and lies between 33m and 35m above the Ordnance datum (AOD).

The study area extends to 1km from SK 67997 71595.

1.3 Soils and Geology

The underlying bedrock consists of Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation; pinkish-red or buff-grey, medium to coarse grained, pebbly, cross-bedded, friable sandstone, subordinate lenticular beds of reddish brown mudstone (BGS 2014). Soil type is described as freely-draining, slightly acidic sands (LandIS 2014).

1.4 Previous Archaeological work

No previous archaeological work is known to have taken place in the study area.

2. METHODS AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the desk-based assessment was to produce a report to enable judgements to be made on the condition and significance of archaeological remains and any mitigation that may be necessary in relation to the proposed development.

2.1 Research Objectives

The research objectives were to interpret any archaeological or historic remains according to their significance in contributing to the further understanding of the periods they may relate to. The regional research framework for Nottinghamshire is the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework (Cooper 2006).

2.2 Methods and Standards

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994), English Heritage guidance (EH 2006 and 2008), and CFA's standard methodology.

2.3 Desk-based Research and Site Visit

The following sources were consulted:

- Nottingham County Council Historic Environmental Record (HER) for sites, find spots or monuments within the proposed development area or within a 1km buffer zone around the proposed development area;
- Nottingham Central Library Local Studies and Family History Collection for historic maps and relevant documentary sources;
- Internet sources for information relating to general background, listed buildings and other heritage resources within the study area;
- The site was visited on 28 August 2014. The weather was overcast and ground conditions were good.

The bibliography contains a list of all sources consulted, including online resources and unpublished reports.

2.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans, reports, and photographs will be ordered to nationally recognised standards (Brown 2011).

The archive currently consists of:

Digital Photographs	1 x CD
Notes and Research materials	1 x A4 folder
Survey data and photographs	
All non-confidential correspondence	
This Report	-

Should further work be undertaken on then the archive resulting from such work would be incorporated into the current archive to be deposited together.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

3.1 General

Numbers in brackets refer to sites located on Figure 1 and described in Appendix 1.

3.2 Historical background

Cropmarks recorded in the area are considered to date to the late prehistoric and Romano-British period as well as with the Iron Age (Deegan 1999). Roman presence in the area is also shown by Roman encampments and the Fosse Way (Dobbin 1983). A Roman coin was discovered on Warren Farm in Haughton.

By the Saxon period, Nottinghamshire formed part of the kingdom of Mercia (Dobbin 1983). There is reference to a Saxon church in 'Hoctun' in the later Domesday Book (*ibid.*), which is thought to be the origins of the ruined Haughton Chapel (SAM 1006396), which lies on the banks of the River Maun, just outside the study area.

Haughton and Walesby are referred to in the Domesday Book as small holdings, but largely as 'waste' (Page 1910; Doubleday 1947). The Saxon Chapel in 'Hoctun' was repaired and rebuilt in the Norman style at this time (*ibid.*). The motte and bailey castle at Haughton is a type of fortification which was introduced to Britain by the Normans (EH 2014a). Such castles often held strategic positions in the landscape and many were used as aristocratic residences and administrative centres (*ibid.*). The Haughton motte and bailey is exceptionally large for the region, rivalled only by Laxton motte, and would have been visible from its contemporary, Bothamsall Castle (EH 2014a; Gatehouse 2014).

In the twelfth century the Church of St. Edmund was built and, along with Haughton Chapel became part of the chapelry of Blyth (Doubleday 1944; 1947). This Church lies to the west of the deserted medieval village of Willoughby, and was partly rebuilt in the sixteenth century (EH 2014b).

The motte and bailey castle at Haughton was adapted for use as a duck decoy in the mid-sixteenth century (Evening Post 1988) and survives as the oldest in the country (Gatehouse 2014).

Under the ownership of the Holles family, Haughton and its surrounding lands underwent significant development, including drainage works and the construction of the River Maun, and the plantation of trees and avenues.

From 1711 Haughton Park passed onto the Pelhams and Clintons who paid for upkeep, including the water management of Haughton Decoy (Baddley 1994). It was still in good working order and recorded as still yielding ducks by the *Victorian County Histories* (Page 1910). Eventually, it fell out of use with the popularity in duck shooting and became increasingly obscured by the tree plantation (EH 2014).

The Nottingham Post (2014) records a local tradition that a temporary post was set up near the proposed development site for soldiers in World War I who were told to bury the carcasses of diseased horses, grenades and ammunition in separate pits.

3.3 Cartographic Sources

The proposed development area

Relevant Ordnance Survey and earlier maps were examined for past land use on the site and the immediate surrounding area. No sites or features of cultural heritage interest were identified within the proposed development area from consultation of the historic maps but they provided historical background to the use of the wider landscape.

The buffer zone

The 1689 map of Haughton depicts the north-south road through Haughton and Walesby, now Retford Road, with a mill where it turns in the north, and the Haughton Decoy, labelled here as 'The West Pond in ye Parke'. Due West of the decoy are the 'White Leys Pond' and to the northeast are 'The East Pond in ye Parke' and 'Fatt Close Ponds'. A building representing the 'The Lodge on the Parke' is shown to the north of the decoy. Avenues of trees are shown in the northeast of the study area from The Bowling Green Close and enclosure boundaries are shown. The district boundary between Walesby and Haughton is visible to the south of the Decoy.

On the 1708 View of Haughton by Knyff the landscape labelled as a 'Parke' in 1689 is drawn as enclosed agricultural fields. The Lodge is still visible, and trees line the north-south road and the east-west road towards Haughton Hall (first seen here) and Haughton Chapel. The ponds and Decoy are shown to be present and in use.

George Sanderson's survey in 1835 depicts the study area as more regularised field enclosures, particularly in Walesby parish. 'The East Pond in ye Parke' no longer exists. The avenue of trees in the northeast part of the park is not mapped. A more substantial road to the Lodge appears to have been put in place. The mill is identified here as a corn mill and the Hall has been labelled Haughton Old Hall, implying its unoccupied status. The chapel still exists.

'Fatt Close Ponds' is annotated 'Lower Ponds' on the Ordnance Survey 1887 Edition map. Walesby has further expanded and field enclosures have decreased in size. Evidence of vegetation encroachment in the ponds around the Haughton Decoy, and the other ponds are mapped. The Lodge has been renamed Haughton Farm, and more buildings are shown around the mill.

The Ordnance Survey 1955 Edition map depicts further development along the Retford Road to the southwest of the proposed development area, and along Tuxford Road from Willoughby.

The Ordnance Survey 1960 Edition map depicts further development to the southwest of the proposed development site including the construction of Oakham Farm, and the beginnings of a railway embankment along the northwest of the study area.

The 1966 Ordnance Survey map depicts the Mineral Railway and further developments and alterations to Oakham Farm are shown.

The 1986 Ordnance Survey map depicts further expansion to Walesby. There are further alterations to Oakham Farm depicted and there is no longer any evidence of the 'White Leys Pond' to the west of the Haughton Decoy. The fields have become larger with the elimination of the boundaries that were in place from as far back 1887.

3.3 Desk-based Assessment and HER

The proposed development area

The HER records no sites or features of cultural heritage interest within the proposed development area.

The buffer zone

The proposed development site lies on the very southern boundary of Haughton Park.

The southernmost boundary of the proposed development area is formed by a hedgerow, which runs along the long-established district and parish boundary between Haughton and Walesby (*Baddley pers comm*).

A series of linear features forming a field system (L6508), with an associated simple enclosure with an elaborate entrance have been recorded as cropmarks (Deegan 1999). These features have not been tested by excavation, but are usually associated with prehistoric era, namely Iron Age or Romano-British. It is unclear from the aerial photographs whether or not the development area encroaches on these cropmarks.

The area of Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Haughton Decoy and Motte and Bailey Castle (1008240) encompasses: the motte itself (L4452), which is made up of an earthwork mound; the earthworks of the duck decoy (L8712), which include the decoy (former remains of the bailey) itself, with a yew plantation, the ponds, pipes, and the gun mound (former remains of the motte); the semi-circular ditch (L9481), which acted as a moat for the bailey and is preserved on its south-southwest side; the motte and bailey as a whole (M4452), including its ditches; and the duck decoy as a whole (M8712). All of these features are overgrown with a covering of dense tree and wetland vegetation. Where ponds, ditches and pipes still remain these still retain water. Its scheduling as an ancient monument is also in connection with Haughton Chapel (1006396) and the Site of the Old Hall to the South of Haughton Hall Farm (1006389) which lie outside of the study area.

Three listed buildings lie within the buffer zone study area. These are Decoy House (1.26.7), Haughton Farm House (1223929) and a range of farm buildings at Haughton Farm (126629). The latter two are Grade II listed buildings, originally documented as the Lodge on very early maps, and include the mid-eighteenth century farmhouse with associated stable blocks, pigeoncote and barn, now partly converted into a restaurant.

Two parallel linear features (L6507), recorded as cropmarks to the north of the town of Walesby are most likely to be the remains of an old road.

An assortment of mounds and hollows (L7705), recorded to the north of the old town of Walesby, may be associated with cropmarks in the adjoining field, and two substantial rectangular hollows (L7706).

Walesby Conservation Area and within it has been found medieval ditches, pits and postholes (L11088), which are thought to be the remains of an old property boundary.

The Church of St. Edmund (1178711, M4512) has its origins in the twelfth century, though has been added to and adapted over the centuries (L4512). The nave (L9427) shows characteristic features of the thirteenth century, whilst the chancel window and arch (L4926) are fourteenth century in date.

Several buildings of historic interest have been recorded: the Cottage (3.83.3), Wellow Cottage (3.83.4), Corner House (3.83.5), the Church Farmhouse (3.83.6), Linconia (3.83.7) and Baltika (3.83.8).

A Neolithic pestle and mace (L4469) is recorded as having been found within the buffer zone. A Bronze Age flanged axe (L5538) was found during construction works on Oakham Farm.

3.4 Walkover Survey

The development area lies within a landscape of arable fields. The southern field of the development area itself was covered in long grass (Plate 1); while the northern field was used as a paddock (Plate 2). Both fields were devoid of upstanding archaeological remains.

Residential development along the west of Retford Road was visible to the southwest of the proposed development area. The Haughton Decoy (1008240) could not be seen from the proposed development area, as it is masked by dense mixed woodland.

4. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The development would have no direct impacts on any known cultural heritage resource.

There is a potential for direct impacts on as yet unknown cultural heritage sites within the development area. Consideration of the known archaeological resource suggests that the wider area has been occupied from the prehistoric era and therefore it is possible that archaeological remains could be present within the development area. However, the probability that the proposed development area containing significant archaeological remains is considered to be unknown. Since the development is low impact, the potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed is considered low.

The development would involve the erection of 12 temporary cabins, parking areas, new access and a children's play area. The cabins would be one storey high, and would occupy a relatively small area of land in the corner of a field. There are existing built-up areas directly to the southwest of the proposed development area and the town of Walesby lies less than 600m to the south.

In regard to the Haughton Decoy (1008240) views to and from the scheduled monument are currently restricted by dense overgrowth. The monument is a prominent feature in the landscape. However, the proposed temporary development, although clearly visible, would not represent a prominent feature of the landscape in comparison to the size and existing development in the surrounding area. Therefore, it would not represent a significant impact on the setting of this monument.

The proposed development would lie within a peripheral part of the non-registered Haughton Park and Garden and would not represent a significant change to the setting of the core elements of the park and garden.

Taking into account the existing baseline of the area and the development proposals it is considered that the proposed development would not cause a significant impact on the setting of the cultural heritage resource in the wider area.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the desk-based assessment and field survey, the archaeological potential of the proposed development area is considered to be low for remains of medieval or later date. It is suggested that cropmarks identified by aerial photography may encroach upon the proposed development area. However, as point data was only available for this assessment this remains unknown. Since the impact of the development will be low, the potential for hitherto undiscovered archaeological remains to be disturbed is also considered to be low.

The development would not affect the ability to appreciate or understand the surrounding cultural heritage assets and is not predicted to have a significant direct or indirect impact on them.

Any mitigation measures to avoid, reduce and offset the likely effects of the proposed development on the archaeological resource would be agreed in advance with the Nottingham County Council Archaeology Service, and would be detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation.

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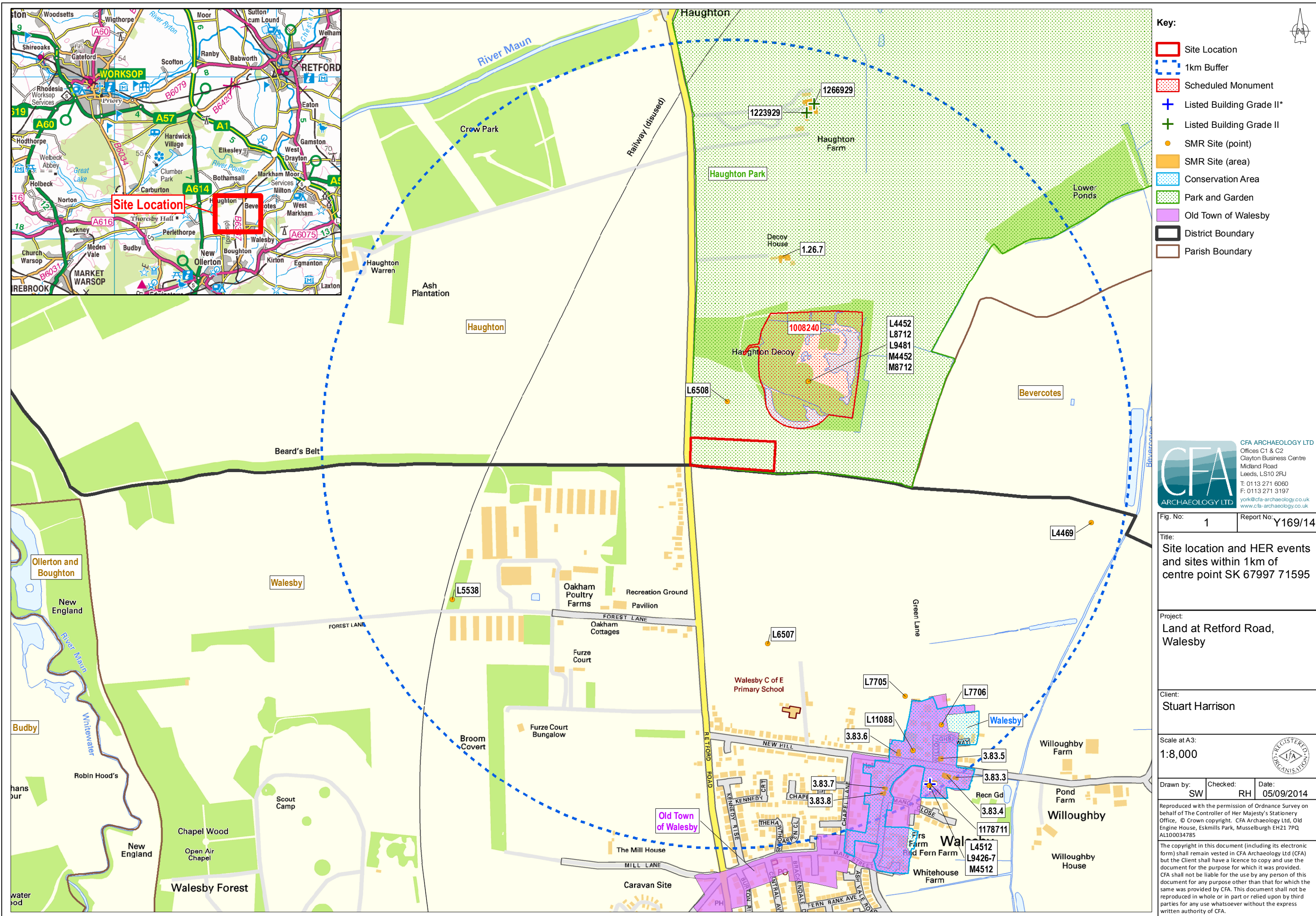
APPENDIX 1: Heritage Assets within 1km of the Proposed Development Area

HER No.	Name	Type	Period	Status	NGR	Description
1008240	Haughton Decoy and Motte and Bailey Castle	Decoy and Motte and Bailey Castle	Medieval – Modern	Scheduled Monument	SK 68186 71778	The HER notes that this site is an unusually massive motte for Notts, approx 30m diameter at base, 10m high and 10m diameter on top. It is constructed of sand and gravel which is being eroded in places. The bailey has been reconstructed as part of the duck decoy in the late 17th century and the entire plan is not now easy to see. It may be that the later alterations have marked or added features such as the low, flat topped mound in the SE corner of the site which at first sight seemed to be a low motte. The ditch which defines the W slope of this feature tapers out to nothing and is probably secondary. The site is very difficult to understand because of the excessive undergrowth.
1178711	Church Of St Edmund	Church	Mid 18 TH C – Modern	Grade II* Listed	SK 68501 70754	
1223929	Haughton Farmhouse	Farmhouse	Mid 18 TH C – Modern	Grade II Listed	SK 68196 72415	
1266929	Range Of Farm Buildings At Haughton Farm	Farm Buildings		Grade II Listed	SK 68215 72436	
1.26.7	Decoy House	Building	18 th century		SK 68032 72124	
3.83.4	Wellow Cottage	Building			SK 68444 70846	
3.83.6	Church Farmhouse	Building			SK 68323 70902	
3.83.5	Corner House	Building			SK 68428 70887	
3.83.3	The Cottage	Building			SK 68465 70840	
3.83.7	Linconia	Building			SK 68290 70814	
3.83.8	Baltika	Building			SK 68286 70801	

HER No.	Name	Type	Period	Status	NGR	Description
M4452	Motte and Bailey, Haughton Decoy, Haughton	Motte and Bailey	Medieval		SK 68200 71750	
M4512	Church of St. Edmund, Walesby	Church	Medieval – Modern		SK 68500 70750	The HER notes that this site consists of nave with S aisle and clerestorey, chancel and W tower. The nave has a 13 th century S arcade with circular piers, simply moulded capitals, and double-chamfered arches. The chancel windows are clearly c 1300 (intersecting tracery). The chancel arch is most probably early C14 too. Perpendicular features comprise nave windows, clerestory and tower. The whole N wall was probably rebuilt with old materials
M8712	Duck Decoy, Haughton Decoy, Haughton	Decoy Pond	Post-Medieval		SK 68200 71750	The HER notes that this duck decoy is 14 acres in extent. The date of construction is not known, but it is said to be the oldest in England. The ponds and pipes are now overgrown, but have a marshy base and doubtless still hold seasonal water. The central terraced gun mound has a maximum height of 8.8m, it is now thickly covered in blackthorn and dead timber; the remainder of the decoy is generally lightly wooded apart from the occasional clump of impenetrable evergreen.
L4452	Earthwork Mound, Haughton Decoy, Haughton	Motte and Bailey	Pre 1709 – Post-Medieval		SK 68200 71750	The HER notes that this site is an unusually massive motte for Notts, approx 30m diameter at base, 10m high and 10m diameter on top. It is constructed of sand and gravel which is being eroded in places. The bailey has been reconstructed as part of the duck decoy in the late 17 th century and the entire plan is not now easy to see. It may be that the later alterations have marked or added features such as the low, flat topped mound in the SE corner of the site which at first sight seemed to be a low motte. The ditch which defines the W slope of this feature peters out to nothing and is probably secondary. The site is very difficult to understand because of the excessive undergrowth.
L4469	Neolithic Pestle and Mace, Walesby	Findspot	Neolithic		SK 68900 71400	A pestle of schistose grit and a perforated mace of quartz dolerite are in the collection belonging to Mr BR Minnitt.
L4512	Perpendicular Features of St. Edmund's Church	Window, Clerestorey, Church Tower	Medieval		SK 68500 70750	The HER entry relates to features of the church including the nave windows, clerestory and tower. The whole N wall was probably rebuilt with old materials early in the 16 th century.

HER No.	Name	Type	Period	Status	NGR	Description
L5538	Bronze Age Flanged Axe, Oakham Farm, Walesby	Findspot	Bronze Age		SK 67320 71210	The HER notes that a Middle Bronze Age flanged axe c.15.0cm long was found at NW Hemsall Ltd, Oakham Farm, Forest Lane, Walesby, by workmen of R Woodhead of Edwinstowe.
L6507	Parallel linear features, Walesby	Linear Feature	Uncertain		SK 68100 71100	The Her notes that parallel linear features extending from the corner of the grave yard may be an old road line.
L6508	Linear features and enclosures, Haughton	Linear Feature Enclosure	Uncertain		SK 68000 71700	The HER notes that there are linear features, possible field boundaries, extending both sides of the modern road. There is also a small square enclosure with an entrance to the east
L7705	Mounds and hollows, Walesby	Hollow, Mound	Uncertain		SK 68440 70970	The HER notes assorted large mounds and hollows to the south of an old stream channel. They are also visible as a cropmark in the arable field to the east.
L7706	Hollows, Walesby	Hollow	Uncertain		SK 68530 70900	The HER notes two hollowed out areas with rectangular form, up to 1m deep.
L8712	Earthworks, Haughton Decoy, Haughton	Mound, pond	Pre-1709 – Post-Medieval		SK 68200 71750	The HER notes that this duck decoy is 14 acres in extent. The date of construction is not known, but it is said to be the oldest in England. The ponds and pipes are now overgrown, but have a marshy base and doubtless still hold seasonal water. The central terraced gun mound has a maximum height of 8.8m, it is now thickly covered in blackthorn and dead timber; the remainder of the decoy is generally lightly wooded apart from the occasional clump of impenetrable evergreen.
L9426	C14 features of St Edmund's church, Walesby	Window, Chancel, Arch	Medieval		SK 68500 70750	The HER entry relates to 14 th century features of the church. The chancel windows are clearly c1300 (intersecting tracery) and the chancel arch most probably early 14 th century.
L9427	C13 features of St Edmund's church, Walesby	Arcade	Medieval		SK 68500 70750	The nave has a 13 th century S arcade with circular piers, simply moulded capitals, and double-chamfered arches.
L9481	Semi-circular ditch, Haughton Decoy, Haughton	Ditch	Uncertain		SK 68200 71750	There is a semicircular moat on the SSW side, damp, with reeds growing in it (20yds wide). This encloses a bailey on which there is an old yew plantation.
	Haughton Park	Park and Garden		Non-registered Park and Garden	SK 682 723	
	Walesby	Conservation Area		Conservation Area	SK 684 707	

Figure 1



Key:

- Site Location
- 1km Buffer
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building Grade II*
- Listed Building Grade II
- SMR Site (point)
- SMR Site (area)
- Conservation Area
- Park and Garden
- Old Town of Walesby
- District Boundary
- Parish Boundary

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Project: Land at Retford Road, Walesby			
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Plates 1-2



Plate 1: Development area with district boundary visible on the right



Plate 2: Development area



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