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## Archaeological Evaluation Report No. MK118/18

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### **Residential Development, 14 Grimes Gate, Diseworth, Derby: An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. MK118/18**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of a housing development at 14 Grimes Gate, Diseworth, Derby, DE74 2QD (centred on SK 4536 2473). The archaeological evaluation comprised 7 trenches under each footprint. Part of the site lies within Diseworth conservation area. Two gas pipes were found, probably associated with Old Hall Farm, there was no significant archaeology revealed.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 General

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 on a residential development, at 14 Grimes Gate, Diseworth, Derby. The work was commissioned by Thurman Hambleton Developments on behalf of Simon Thurman. The evaluation targeted the six footprints for the houses.

The work was required by condition 16 of the planning permission (17/00332/FULM) and comprised an archaeological evaluation of the development footprint ie the 6 houses. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 6th December 2017 covering this programme of works produced by CFA and approved by Leicestershire County Council's archaeologists.

### 2.2 Background

The baseline from the CGMS desk-based assessment is reproduced here;

#### 4.4 Non-Designated Heritage Assets and other archaeological monuments

4.4.1 No non-designated heritage assets have been recorded within the study site.

4.4.2 The data provided by the HER indicates 12 non-designated heritage assets within the 1 km search area of the study site.

#### 4.5 Previous Archaeological Investigations

4.5.1 One archaeological event is recorded within the study site itself. This is a series of photographs taken on a visit to Hall Farm by the North-West Leicestershire Conservation Officer in 2010. This did not represent a formal survey, but simply record photographs to illustrate any issues relating to the buildings which were noted on the day.

4.5.2 Two field evaluations having taken place within the village of Diseworth. A strip, map and sample event, followed up by a watching brief (ELE 7899) was conducted at 4 Lady Gate, some 240 m south-west of the study site. This did not reveal any archaeological finds or deposits.

4.5.3 Archaeological evaluation was also undertaken at land to the north of Clements Gate in 2009/10 some 380m to the south-east of the study site (ELE 7890/ELE7892) which also proved to be negative.

4.5.4 The remaining event records relate to historic building surveys, archaeological monitoring interventions and an extensive area of LiDAR analysis and geo - archaeological sampling (events 7149 and 7150) which was undertaken in relation to plans for the widening of the M1 motorway to the east of Diseworth.

#### **4.6 Prehistoric and Roman**

4.6.1 Within the 1km search area around the study site, the HER data includes two records referring to evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activity. In 2000 a Neolithic polished stone axe (MLE17368) was found in the garden of a house on Clements Gate, some 300m to the south-east of the study site. This is a chance find. 4.6.2 The postulated line of a Roman road, linking the Trent crossing and Redhill with Watling Street at Tamworth runs on a north-east/south-west alignment to the west of Diseworth, some 600m to the west of the study site. The suggested alignment is based upon the presence of existing routes, a series of straight parish boundaries (Diseworth to Lockington-Hemington) and place names (Stretton-en-le-Field and 'King Street' in Lockington-Hemington parish.

4.6.3 The above records reflect a 'background noise' of activity from these periods, and do not indicate any focus for settlement or other activity. On the basis of this evidence and the Leicestershire County archaeological resource assessment, the site is considered to have a low potential for evidence for both Prehistoric and Roman activity.

#### **4.7 Saxon / Early Medieval**

4.7.1 Diseworth is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, being in the Hundred of Goscote. Known as Diwort in 1086, the name is thought to mean 'the settlement associated with Digoth', having evolved from the name 'Digoth' and 'worth' meaning enclosure or village.

4.7.2 The Church of St Michael (MLE 11188, MLE21834), located c. 200m south of the study site, is considered to be of Saxon origin and is listed in the matriculus of 1220 of Bishop Hugh of Wells. The fabric of the building is substantially 13th century with an early 14th century tower, however it also features a probable Saxo-Norman window in the chancel north wall.

4.7.3 Data obtained from the HER contains further no records relating to Saxon sites or finds from the study site or surrounding search area.

4.7.4 The study site is on the northern edge of the village, and some distance from its historic core (the focus of which would have been around the church and, possibly, Hall Gate). This factor, coupled with the absence of evidence for Saxon activity within its wider environs, suggests that the study site has a very low potential for remains of Saxon date.

#### **4.8 Medieval**

4.8.1 The HER includes 2 records relating to possible Medieval period sites or structures within the search area. These relate to a find of part of a pier of a

bridge giving access to the village over a tributary of the Diseworth Brook (MLE4725) and MLE 4759, Hall Close, the site, and limited surviving earthwork remains of a Medieval manor. Both these sites are over 600m from the study site.

4.8.2 A further feature which may be of Medieval origin is an undated mound (MLE 4744) which is located c. 300m to the east of the study site. (image 1186). The feature is described in the HER as 30 - 40m in diameter and surrounded by a deep ditch. An associated linear earthwork is also recorded here. The HER entry for this site suggests that it may be a windmill mound or a barrow. The feature is not depicted on the earliest O.S. map of the area however, and later mapping (1906 O.S) indicates that there were ponds in the location of the current earthwork. The first time it is mapped as 'Mill Mound' is in 1967.

4.8.3 The Leicestershire Historic Landscape Character assessment describes the land around Old Hall farm as Piecemeal enclosure. This character type can be defined as field systems created out of the Medieval open fields by means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers wishing to consolidate their holdings. This process appears to have been underway in Leicestershire around the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Enclosure within this category is characterised by small to medium sized irregular fields with at least two boundaries exhibiting a reverse 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology indicating that they are following the boundaries of former strip fields.

4.8.4 The study site is located on the edge of the village of Diseworth. It is some 200m north of the historic core of the village (which is assumed to focus around Hall Gate and St Michael and All Saints church). Historic Landscape Character information shows that the farm is on the edge of the former medieval open field system, evidence of which still survives as ridge and furrow earthworks on adjacent land, though none occur on the study site itself. This location would suggest that the study site has a low potential for significant, non-agricultural remains of this period.

## **4.9 Post-Medieval & Modern (including map regression)**

4.9.1 Data obtained from the HER contains 14 records relating to Post-Medieval or Modern period monuments within the search area. The three listed timber-framed barns on the study site are included within this number (MLE 11195, MLE 11196, MLE 11197). Other than a 19th century brickyard and surviving kiln (MLE8851) located some 370m to the south-west of the study site, the remaining records relate to listed buildings or structures, largely concentrating around the Hall Gate area of the village to the west, and are not relevant to the Old Hall Farm site.

4.9.2 The earliest map to show the study site is an estate plan of 1795 showing land belonging to Christ's College, Cambridge (CCC, Diseworth, Agg (1) – Figure 4). This shows the footprint of the existing house and timber-framed barns. There is a boundary shown to the east of the farmhouse, beyond which is a large area of unenclosed land, which, it is assumed, reflected that it was managed as an open field system. The routeways of Grimes Gate and Hymans Lane are established by this time. No development is shown to the north or east of the study site, which would establish the fact that it was on the edge of the settlement at that time.

4.9.3 The earliest O.S. map to depict the site is the first edition of 1884 (Figure 5). This shows the footprint of the farmhouse, along with the three listed barns and the building on the southern side of the farm yard. The buildings sit within an enclosure which appears to have a small orchard in its north-eastern corner. Beyond the eastern boundary of this enclosure is an area of open land which is bounded to the north by Hyam's Lane.

4.9.4 The first available map to show any significant changes to the study site is the 1967 -1980 1:2500 O.S (Figure 6). A collection of buildings as depicted immediately to the east of the original farmyard. The eastern boundary of the enclosure within which the farm complex sits appears to have been moved further east to take in part of the adjacent field.

4.9.5 On the basis of the available HER and map evidence the study site appears to have changed very little in terms of its use and building layout since the late 18th century. The most significant changes have occurred since the 1960s when a series of modern farm buildings were constructed to the east of the traditional buildings. With this development has come the creation of associated yard areas and a silage clamp - which has resulted in a lowering of the ground level in comparison to that of the adjacent pasture. This action will have removed any archaeological earthwork or below ground evidence which might have existed here. Similarly any modifications/resurfacing/drainage works to yards in the area of the traditional farm buildings will have removed archaeological evidence here. The study site's potential for significant Post-Medieval or Modern period archaeological remains is therefore considered be low across the study site.

## **2.4 Objectives**

The over-arching research aims of the project were those identified in 'Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012 East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands. Informed by this volume, the most pertinent aims for the current site, given the potential resource, are:

- To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains within the areas affected by ground works associated with the proposed development;
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any buried archaeological remains that are encountered;
- To record any archaeological remains that are encountered;
- To interpret any such remains within the context of the known current and previous land use of the proposed development site and the wider area;
- To produce a report and archive of the findings of the project.
- To inform the final phase of archaeological mitigation, if needed.

## **3. WORKING METHODS**

### **General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

### **Trenching**

Seven trenches each measuring approximately 12m x 1.6m were targeted on the proposed housing development; Trench 3 was split in half due to obstructing machinery. All machining will be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trench locations are shown in Fig. 1.

### **Excavation and Recording Strategy**

All trenches were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (2015) and CFA's quality manuals. All trenches were related in height to ordnance datum and positioned using RTK initialised GPS equipment accurate up to 8mm horizontal and 12mm vertical. The photographic record comprised high resolution digital photographs supplemented by 35mm B&W film.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **General**

A summary of all trenches is contained in Appendix 1. Illustrations and photographs referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report, Fig. 1 is a site and trench location plan. The geology in all trenches was a firm mid reddish brown clay. The topsoil was mid brown silty clay overlaying the natural.

### **Trench 1 (Fig. 4)**

There was no archaeology present.

### **Trench 2 (Fig. 5)**

There was no archaeology present.

### **Trench 3 and Trench 7 (Fig. 6 and 10)**

Trench 3 was split in half due to obstructive machinery. There was no archaeology present in trench 3 and 7.

### **Trench 4 (Fig. 7)**

This trench was shallow due to the land being reduced to build a barn. There was no archaeology present.

### **Trench 5 (Fig. 8)**

There was no archaeology present.

### **Trench 6 (Fig. 9)**

There was no archaeology present.



## **5. CONCLUSION**

No significant archaeological remains were exposed in any of the evaluation trenches suggesting that the locations of the proposed housing plots are likely to have avoided any significant archaeology.

## **6. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CIfA, 2014a, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

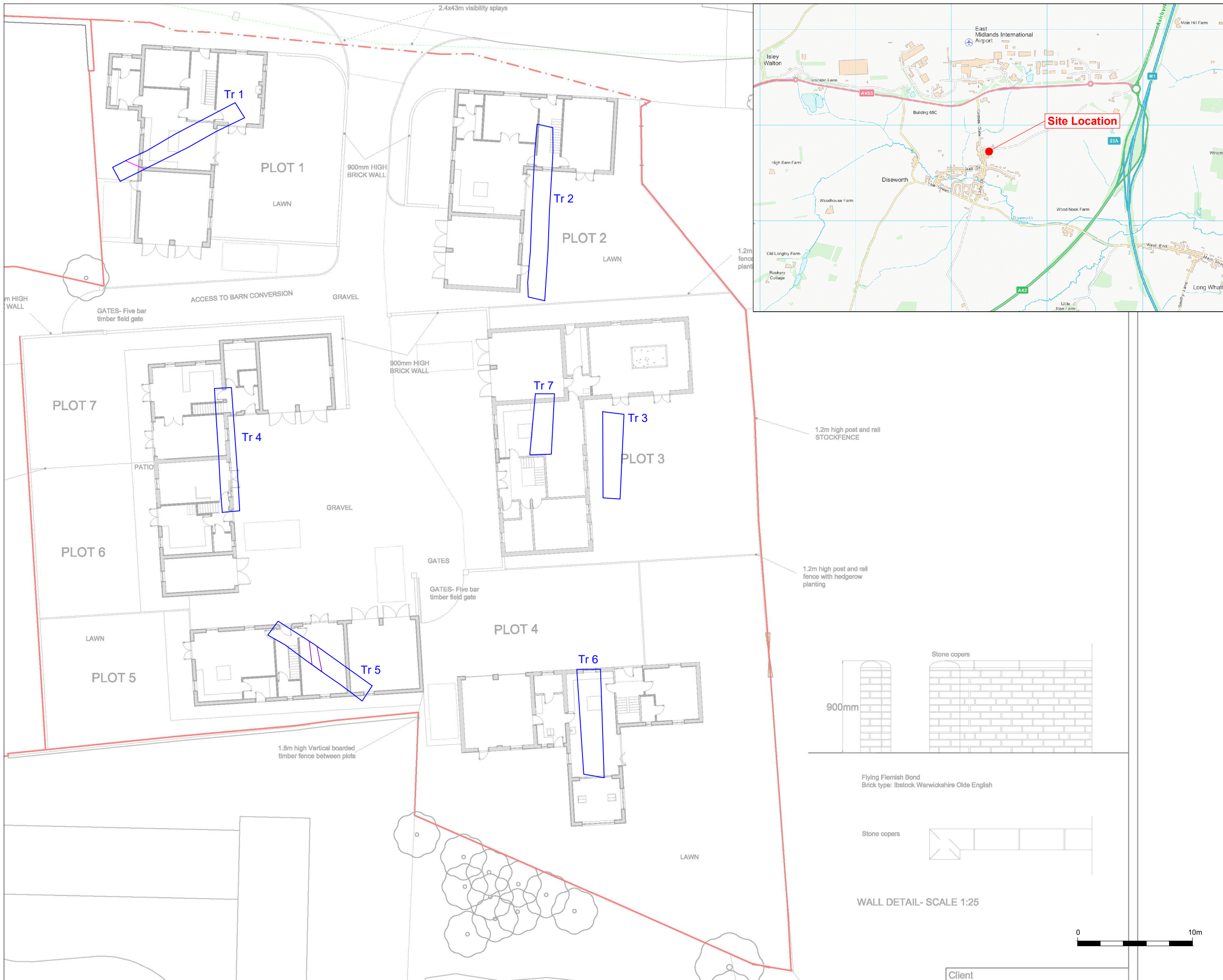
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NPPF, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary

<b>Trench 01</b>		Trench Size 12m x 1.5m	
Trench Depth 0.3 – 0.4m	Topsoil Depth 0.08 – 0.1m	Subsoil Depth Not present	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 02</b>		Trench Size 15m x 1.6m	
Trench Depth 0.3- 0.5m	Topsoil Depth 0.1m	Subsoil Depth 0.1- 0.3m	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 03</b>		Trench Size 7.5m x 1.5m	
Trench Depth 0.23- 0.26m	Topsoil Depth 0.23- 0.25m	Subsoil Depth Not present	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 04</b>		Trench Size 11m x 1.5m	
Trench Depth 0.15- 0.3m	Topsoil Depth 0.02-0.13m	Subsoil Depth 0.13m- 0.23m	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 05</b>		Trench Size 9.5m x 1.5m	
Trench Depth 0.2-0.5m	Topsoil Depth 0.2m-0.23m	Subsoil Depth Not present	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 06</b>		Trench Size 14m x 1.5m	
Trench Depth 0.34-0.5m	Modern floor make up layer 0.32- 0.47m	Subsoil Depth Not present	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			
<b>Trench 07</b>		Trench Size 5.5m x 1.6m	
Trench Depth 0.3- 0.32m	Topsoil Depth 0.18-0.22m	Subsoil Depth Not present	
<i>No Archaeology</i>			



**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline
- Modern Service
- Modern Feature

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Title:  
**Site and trench location plan**

Project:  
**Residential Development,  
 14 Grimes Gate, Diseworth,  
 Derby, DE74 2QD: Archaeological  
 Evaluation**

Client:  
**Thurman Hambleton  
 Developments**

Scale at A3:  
**1:300**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>02/03/2018</b>
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Report No: <b>MK118/18</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
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Fig. 2 - General shot of pre-excavated site



Fig. 3 - General shot of pre-excavated site

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Fig. 4 - Shot of Trench 1 facing south-west



Fig. 5 - Shot of Trench 2 facing north

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Fig. 6 - Shot of Trench 3 facing south



Fig. 7 - Shot of Trench 4 facing south

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Fig. 8 - Shot of Trench 5 facing north-east



Fig. 9 - Shot of Trench 6 facing north

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Fig. 10 - Shot of Trench 7 facing south

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