

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP AND RECORD AT HIGHBURY, KIRKLINGTON ROAD, EAKRING, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



On behalf of Mr. J Richens

Planning Ref. Newark and Sherwood DC, 10/01679/FUL

CS Archaeology
March 2016

On behalf of: Mr J Richens
Apartment 4
The Old Cinema
Southwell
Nottinghamshire
NG25 0LL

The Site's National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 4674 3621

Project Number: 94

Oasis Reference Code: csarchae1-245364

Planning Reference: 10/01679/FUL

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Timing: Excavation and Report, April 2012-February 2016

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Frontispiece: view of the PDA (Plot 4) from the east

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4:	plot 1, pre-excavation view, looking west
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APPENDIX

1	project design
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (**Application No. 10/01679/FUL**) by Sherwood and Ashfield BC. This consent permits development to proceed subject to an approved WSI (Appendix 1), which was agreed with Dr C Robinson (Nottingham CC) in April 2012, and adhered to throughout the staged development works.
- 1.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies in proximity to an area of earthworks with potential for later Prehistoric/Roman—British archaeology and the excavations could impact on extrapolated elements of these earthworks.
- 1.3 No significant archaeology was revealed, and no environmental sampling was undertaken.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 *Site Name:* Highbury House, Kirklington Road, Eakring

2.2 *Location:* Eakring, Nottinghamshire NG22 0DA (**Figure 1**)

2.3 *Status:* non-statutory

2.4 *Grid reference:* SK 4674 3621

2.5 *Area of site (hectares):* 0.47

2.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record the archaeological resource. This recorded the absence, of any archaeological deposits within the PDA in the areas outlined in **Figure 2**.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological work was to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the PDA. The complete absence of archaeological contexts, even residual pottery indicates suggests that the PDA was used extensively.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 This has been carried out according to an agreed specification in the Project Design (Appendix 1).

5 THE STRIP AND RECORD

- 5.1 This took place over 5 days between April 2012 and March 2016. 4 days were spent watching the foundation excavations of the four dwellings and a fifth day was spent watching the excavation of the east-west driveway that accesses plots 1-3.
- 5.2 Plots 1, 2 & 3 were undertaken on land apparently previously untouched by earthworks associated with the establishment of Highbury house, which was built immediately after WWII. Plot 4 appears to have been truncated by the associated tennis court that was associated with Highbury house and therefore also dates to post WWII.
- 5.3 The Archaeological strip and record was able to establish that there was an absence of any archaeological features within those areas recorded (Plots 1-4). Furthermore there was an absence of even residual activity across the site (**Plates 1-12**).
- 5.4 Stratigraphy across the site was characterized by relatively thin top and sub-soils up to 0.3m deep overlying natural clay substrate with a characteristic band of mudstone.
- 5.5 Therefore with a high degree of certainty CS archaeology can confirm that there have been no impacts to the PDA's archaeological resource (**Figure 2**).
- 5.6 The strip and record was in accordance with the Project Design (Appendix 1).

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The archaeological work has been able to establish the complete absence of archaeological contexts; even residual pottery indicates that the PDA was used only used extensively. Furthermore, the absence of any arable features, such as, ridge and furrows earthworks or a historic plough soil, suggests the PDA was used a utilized as part of the village's pastoral economy.

7 PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

- 7.1 No further work is recommended.

8 REFERENCES

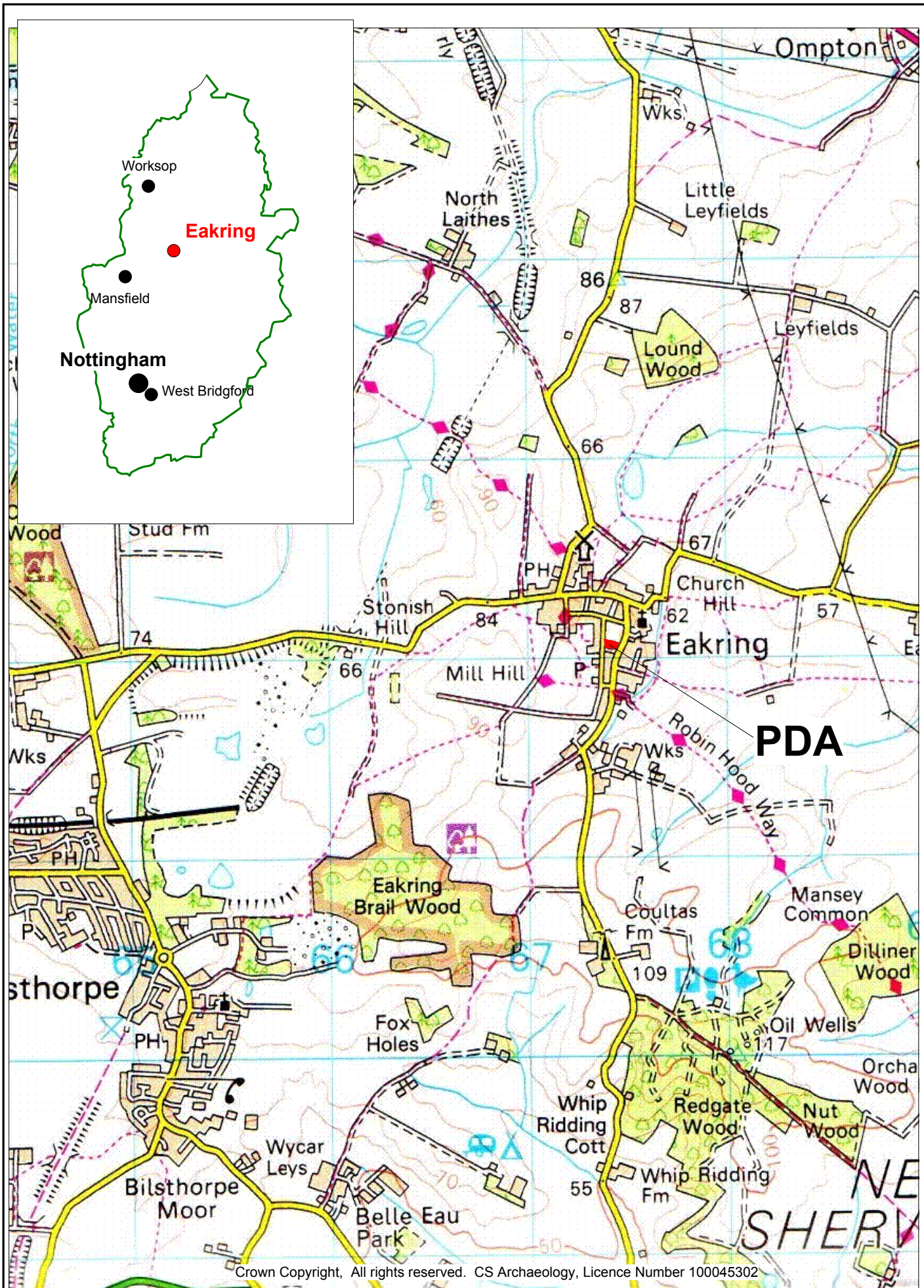
8.1 Cartographic References

2006, Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 1:50000 (Sheet 120).

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr J Richens for commissioning this report and to Dr C Robinson for approving the project design.

FIGURES

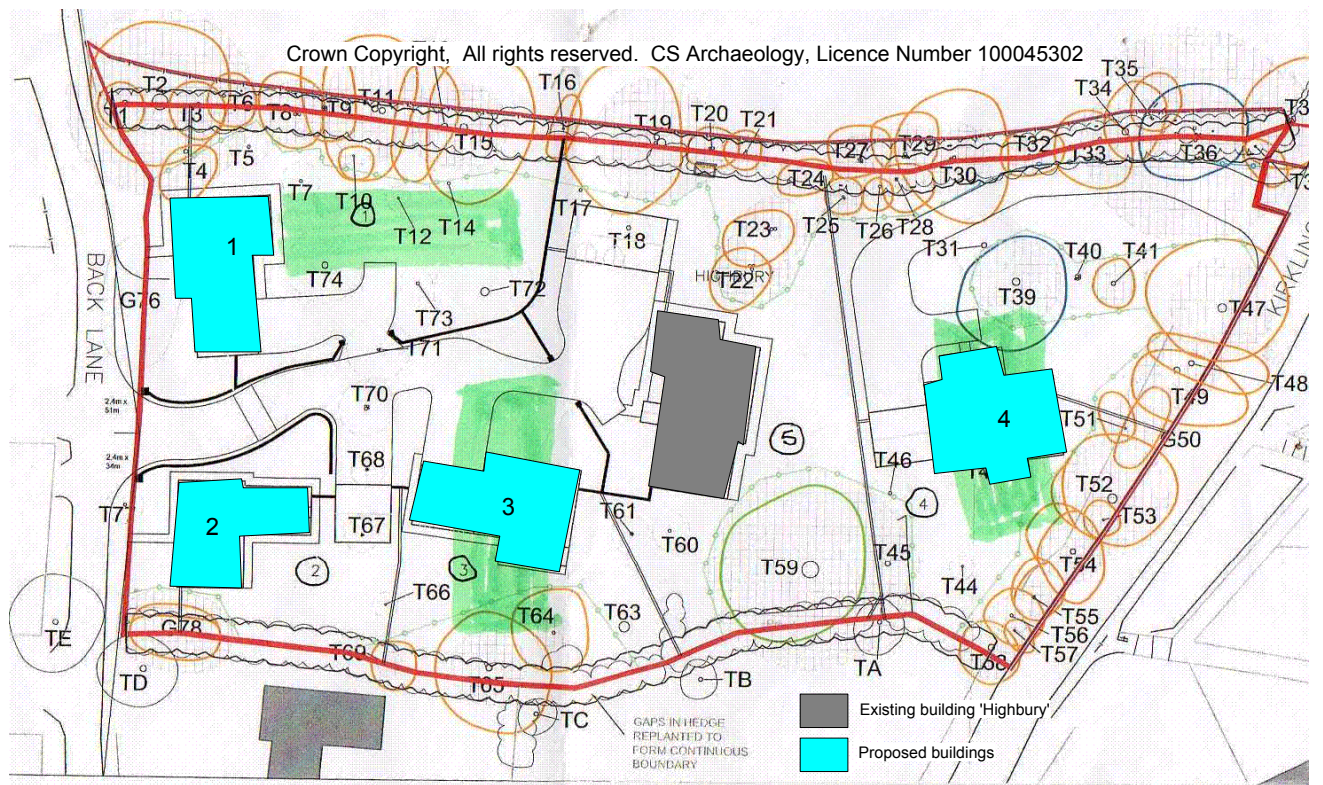


Highbury, Kirklington Lane, Eakring
Am Archaeological Strip and Record

Figure 1: Location Map

scale 1:25000

CS Archaeology
March 2016



PLATES



Plate 1: excavation of the driveway, looking south southeast



Plate 2: view of the truncated hedge/bank looking north



Plate 3: view of the excavated formation level of the driveway, looking east



Plate 4: plot 1, pre-excavation view, looking west



Plate 5: Plot 1, post-excavation view, looking south



Plate 6: Plot 1, post-excavation view, looking east



Plate 7: plot 3, pre-excitation view, looking northwest



Plate 8: Plot 3, typical view of trench section, looking east



Plate 9: Plot 3, post excavation view, looking northwest



Plate 10: plot 4, pre-excitation view, looking east



Plate 11: plot 4 excavation view of the west N-S aligned trench



Plate 12: plot 4, excavation view, looking west

**A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP AND RECORD AT
HIGHBURY, KIRKLINGTON ROAD, EAKRING,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

CS Archaeology

April 2012

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (**Application No. 10/01679/FUL**) by Nottingham County Council. This consent permits development to proceed subject to an approved WSI, which has to be agreed in advance before any works can take place.
- 0.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies in proximity to an area of earthworks with potential for later Prehistoric/Roman—British archaeology and the excavations could impact on extrapolated elements of these earthworks.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological strip and record is implemented to ascertain the nature and extent of the potential archaeological resource which may be encountered during site works.
- 0.4 The results from these archaeological works will allow for the recording and sampling of any archaeological deposits within the PDA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* Highbury, Kirklington Road
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Kirklington Road, Eakring, Nottinghamshire NG22 0DA
- 1.1.3 *Status:* Unknown
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SK 467433/362058
- 1.1.5 *Area of site (hectares):* 0.47
- 1.1.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record the archaeological resource. This record will establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the PDA in the areas outlined in **Figure 1**.

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the historic core of the Medieval village of Eakring, which is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as '*Echering*'. The survey notes that the village contained a church, meadow and woodland pasture.
- 2.2.2 Eakring is an extensive village and parish, situated on a gentle rise in topography, 4 miles SE of Ollerton.
- 2.2.3 Eakring, was in the 11th century referred to as '*Echering*.' One of the early owners of Eakring was Gilbert de Gant, a grandson of the De Gant who accompanied the Conqueror in his invasion of this kingdom. It was Gilbert de Gant who, in 1148, founded Rufford Abbey, and endowed it with his property in this village. William de Albini, whose family subsequently became Earls of Arundel, was also the owner of land at Eakring, and became a benefactor of Rufford. In process of time the manor fell into the possession of Roger, Earl of Rutland, from whom it passed to the Earl of Kingston, the portion of the property vested in the monastery going with Rufford from the Earl of Shrewsbury to Lord Halifax.
- 2.2.4 As early as 1086 the Domesday Survey of the Conqueror records a church and a priest in Eakring. No evidence is available of when the church was first established, but it appears to have been built in stone during the Norman period with later additions in Early English and Decorated styles. At the base of the west tower earlier footings are believed to be evidence suggesting a pre-C13th building.
- 2.2.5 The Reverend William Mompesson, the vicar of Eyam during the Plague in 1666, moved to Eakring in 1670 and is buried in the churchyard. The parish church is dedicated to St. Andrew and is a grade II* listed building. It was constructed in the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and was restored in the early 1880s.
- 2.2.6 In the 20th century Eakring became the site of the country's first oil field operated by British Petroleum, which helped support the war effort.

- 1.2.2 No previous archaeological work has taken place within the site. However the site lies approximately 200 metres south of known earthworks comprising a bank and terraced area forming an east-west hollow. The site is therefore considered to be in proximity and likely to contain archaeological deposits which may be able to date the adjacent earthworks.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been written in response to a condition placed on Planning Consent (Application No. 10/01679/FUL) by Nottingham County Council.
- 1.3.2 This WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to mitigate the impact of the development proposal on the potential archaeological assets. This is in accordance with Local Planning Policies and the National Planning Policy 5, Planning for the Historic Environment.
- 1.3.3 This archaeological condition on consent is to prepare this WSI which covers the excavation of the PDA in the form of an archaeological strip and record operation. This will allow for the proper recording and study of any deposits of archaeological/historical importance. The strip and record will apply to all below ground works associated with site reduction/excavations.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of this strip and record will be to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Strip and record

3.1.1 It is proposed to carry out the strip and record at the commencement of the main site works.



FIGURE 1

- 3.1.2 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).
- 3.1.3 CS Archaeology will ensure that services are located prior to excavation by means of site plans.
- 3.1.4 Mechanical excavation, using a toothless ditching bucket will be used judiciously, under constant archaeological supervision down to the required depths.
- 3.1.5 The removed material will be scanned using a metal detector by the site archaeologist ensuring that all metal finds are located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection will be carried out following the Code of Practice in the Treasure Act of 1996.
- 3.1.6 Should any human remains be revealed these will be initially left *in situ*. The Coroner's Office will be informed only if the remains appear to have been buried for less than 100 years. If the remains prove to be archaeological and have to be removed, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and relevant regulations.
- 3.1.7 All deposits will be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. All features will be planned at 1:20, with individual features being planned at 1:10 where additional detail is required. All feature sections sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. The elevation of the underlying natural where encountered will also be recorded. Even if no archaeology is recorded the stratigraphy will still be recorded. The limits of excavation will be shown in all

plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.

- 3.1.8 The watching brief will favour preservation in situ, unless features will be directly affected by on-site works. If features are to be affected all anthropomorphic features will be investigated – discrete features will initially be half-sectioned; linear features will be excavated to 20% of their extent, not less than 1m in extent. Archaeological contexts at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.
- 3.1.9 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.10 Attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone.
- 3.1.11 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during the excavations will be collected and processed, unless variations to this are agreed by the archaeological monitor (NCC). In some cases sampling may be most appropriate.
- 3.1.12 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for finds (Watkins and Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collated by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slugs. In these instances, the guidance of Bayley *et al* (2001) will be followed.

3.2 Sampling Strategy

- 3.2.1 If the archaeological deposits are of sufficient interest Environmental sampling may be recommended in consultation with NCC. Different sampling strategies will be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the deposits under investigation. CS Archaeology conventionally recovers three main categories of sample:
- i) Routine Soil Samples; a representative 500g sample from every excavated soil context on site. This sample is used in the characterisation of the sediment, potentially through pollen analysis, particle size analysis, pH analysis, phosphate analysis and loss-on-ignition;
 - ii) Standard Bulk Samples; a representative 60-70 litre sample from every excavated soil context on site, in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2002). This sample is used, through floatation sieving, to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts;
 - iii) Purposive or Special Samples; a sample from a sediment which is determined, in field, to either have the potential for dating (wood charcoal for radiocarbon dating or in situ hearths for magnetic susceptibility dating) or for the recovery of enhanced palaeo-environmental information (waterlogged sediments, peat columns, etc).

- 3.2.2 Samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and archaeomagnetic dating, where dating of artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.
- 3.2.3 Environmental samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Positive features should also be sampled. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (e.g. pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and from bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones.
- 3.2.4 Standard Bulk Samples of 60 litres or more will be recovered from every archaeologically significant deposit as part of a comprehensive environmental sampling strategy.
- 3.2.5 Within each significant archaeological horizon a minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the project will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes normally will be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. However, the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. Even in the case where no remains have been located the stratigraphy will be recorded.
- 3.2.6 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

3.3 Photography

- 3.3.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the excavations and site reduction will be made.
- 3.3.2 General and detailed photographs will be taken with a 35mm camera. All photographs will be in black and white using an appropriate silver based film (Ilford Delta Plus), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.3.3 This record will be supplemented by 35mm colour slides, especially where colour is an aspect that needs to be recorded, e.g. built structures and bedrock and characteristic stratigraphy. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both to NCC.

3.4 Site Monitoring

- 3.4.1 NCC will be notified at least one week in advance of the site works and the start of the archaeological strip and record, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.4.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

3.5 Health and Safety

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health and safety, CS Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy is available upon request.

3.6 Post -Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 3.6.1 Once the field recording work has been completed, a full report of the results of the watching Brief will be completed. The post-excavation assessment of material will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The watching brief report will include a phased interpretation of the site, if possible.
- 3.6.3 The watching brief report will also consist of a detailed context index to the archive.
- 3.6.4 If required the results of the palaeo-environmental assessment will outline the potential of the samples and will be included in the watching brief report.
- 3.6.5 The report will provide an interpretation of the results, placing them in local and regional context.
- 3.6.6 A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 Report Submission

- 3.7.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard and digital formats to:
- The Client Mr Richens;
 - Dr C Robinson, County Archaeologist (Nottinghamshire County Council);
 - The appropriate archive/museum.

3.8 Submission and Deposition of the Archive

3.8.1 The archive, including a copy of the report, will be compiled, indexed and then offered for deposition with the appropriate museum (to be advised) after notification in advance of fieldwork.

3.9 Publicity

3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

3.10 References

- Bayley J, et al. 2001, Archaeometalurgy, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, English Heritage
English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
English Heritage, 2002, Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation [2002/01]
English Heritage, 2009, Scheduled Monument Data Sheets (www.magic.gov.uk)
English Heritage, 2010, Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment
Institute of Archaeologists, 2001, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Strip and records Reading
Treasure Act, 1996, Code of Practice
Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, First Aid for Finds (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

Any comments on this WSI please address to Chris Scurfield at:

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