
Archaeology & Built Heritage

Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Trial Trenching
at Apple Orchard Farm, Fenn Lanes,
Dadlington, Leicestershire, CV13 6DR

National Grid Reference: SP 3950 9887

Clients: Mrs & Mr Sclater

Planning Authority: Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Planning Application Ref: 22/00770/FUL

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out details of a programme of exploratory trial trenching, to evaluate the archaeological potential of land at Apple Orchard Farm, Fenn Lanes, Dadlington, Leicestershire, CV13 6DR.
- 1.2 The WSI has been prepared by Neil Finn of Archaeology & Built Heritage (A&BH) at the request of the property owners, Mrs & Mr Sclater.
- 1.3 Planning Permission has been granted by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for *Renovation and recladding of outbuildings. Demolition of outbuildings and erection of Oak Frame Carport structure. New driveway layout, walls and landscaping* at Apple Orchard Farm, subject to a number of conditions (Application Ref: 22/00770/FUL).
- 1.4 Due to the location of the site within an area of archaeological interest, the LPA, in consultation with its archaeological advisors, has required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work as a condition of the Planning Permission (Condition 4).

1.5 Condition 4 of the Planning Permission states that:

Excluding demolition, no development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing for the first phase of archaeological works. Further WSI/s would be needed for Mitigation stage/s. For land that is included within the WSIs, development shall take place in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme as set out in the WSI.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation, recording, dissemination and archiving in accordance with the requirements of Policies DM11, DM12 and DM13 of the Site Allocations Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016).

1.6 The requirement for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work as a condition of Planning Permission is in accordance with local planning policies and the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (DLUH&C 2023, 55-8). Paragraph 205 of the NPPF states that:

Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

1.7 The remit of the programme of archaeological work was set out in advice issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team, in their capacity as archaeological advisor to HBBC, in an email from William Kelly addressed to Tim Hartley of HBBC, dated 21.02.2023. This included provision for an initial phase of exploratory trial trenching, followed, as necessary by intrusive and non-intrusive investigation and recording.

- 1.8 Specific details of the number, size and location of the trial trenches was subsequently agreed in consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist.
- 1.9 This WSI has been prepared in response to advice and a generic brief provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a, last updated October 2020).

2.0 Location and Context

- 2.1 Apple Orchard Farm is located approximately 1km north-west of the hamlet of Dadlington and 1.5km south-east of Shenton, within the civil parish of Sutton Cheney, in the Hinckley & Bosworth District of south-west Leicestershire (Figure 1). The farm is situated to the north of Fenn Lanes, at National Grid Reference: SP 39507 98872 (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The development site lies to the north-east and north-west of the farmhouse and includes various 20th century agricultural buildings, some of which will be retained and others demolished as part of the approved development plans (Figure 3).

3.0 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations

- 3.1 Apple Orchard Farm is included on the Statutory National List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest maintained by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. It was listed at grade II on 13 October 1986. The listing description reads as follows:

SUTTON CHENEY SP39 NE FENN LANE (North Side) 7/108 Apple Orchard Farm II Farmhouse. Partially C17, extended in the later C18 or early C19. Original block is timber framed with brick nogging and plain tiled roof, later addition is brick with plain tiled roof. The original block is timber framed in small square panels, of three bays, with some arched bracing. Two casement windows on each floor in front elevation, doorway in rear wing. Axial stack. Later range also two storeyed, two unit plan with central doorway in gable porch flanked by three light casement windows on each floor, axial stack. Some evidence that this section has been heightened.

- 3.2 Apple Orchard Farm is located within the Registered Battlefield Site of the Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 (NHLE List entry number 1000004).
- 3.3 The application site is not within a Conservation Area and is not subject to any other statutory or non-statutory designations.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Fenn Lanes follows the route of a Roman Road from *Ratae Corieltavorum* (Leicester) that meets Watling Street on the county boundary between Leicestershire and Warwickshire, close to the Romano-British settlement of *Manduessedum* (Mancetter), some 6km (4 miles) west-south-west of Apple Orchard Farm (Margary 1967, 57b).
- 4.2 Apple Orchard Farm is within the designated area of Bosworth Battlefield. The long-disputed site of the battle was established by a multidisciplinary research programme that included an extensive metal detecting survey (Foard and Curry 2013). The metal detecting survey located a concentration of artefacts possibly associated with the battle in the vicinity of a former windmill, immediately to the north of Apple Orchard Farm (Figure 4).
- 4.3 More recent large-scale archaeological and metal detecting surveys have been undertaken in relation to development of the MIRA High Speed Limit Handling Facility on the western fringe of the Registered Battlefield (see ULAS reports: 2018-049; 2018-054; 2018-061; 2018-099; 2018-107; 2018-113). A reassessment of Bosworth Battlefield was undertaken in light of the evidence generated by these surveys (Foard 2018; ULAS report 2018-118).
- 4.4 Apple Orchard Farm is a post-enclosure farmstead located at some distance from local settlement foci, the nearest settlements being Dadlington c. 1km to the south-west, Shenton 1.5km to the north-west and Sutton Cheney 2.6km to the north-east. The earliest part of Apple Orchard Farmhouse is a 2-bay timber-framed structure of 17th century date. The house was extended in the later 18th or early 19th century, with further additions and alterations made in the 19th and 20th centuries. An Historic Fabric Analysis of the building was produced by TR Projects in 2013 (Smith and Hayward 2013).

5.0 Research Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 Regional research aims are defined in *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012), which builds on an earlier resource assessment and research agenda: *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).
- 5.2 Based on the location of the application site within the Bosworth Battlefield Site, the trial trenching programme has the potential to contribute towards themes defined in section 6.7 (High Medieval) of *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, specifically Research

Objective 7H: Investigate location and character of medieval battlefields (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, 94-95, 103).

5.3 Given the proximity of the application site to the Roman Road on the line of the modern Fenn Lanes, the trial trenching programme is also considered to have potential to contribute towards themes defined in section 6.5 (Romano-British) of *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, 70-71).

5.4 The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains within the areas affected by ground works associated with the approved 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 development site and the wider area;
- To produce a report and archive of the findings of the project.

6.0 Scope of the Archaeological Investigation

6.1 The archaeological evaluation will involve the machine excavation of a series of trial trenches in areas where the approved development plans have the potential to expose and/or affect buried archaeological remains.

6.2 The proposed trial trench locations are indicated on Figure 5. The location, orientation and size of the trenches may be altered subject to logistical or other constraints encountered on the ground at the time of the investigation.

6.3 A metal detector survey will be undertaken in conjunction with the trial trenching programme, with all trenches and spoil heaps being systematically and thoroughly detected.

6.4 Any demolition with the potential to expose and/or affect buried archaeological remains will be subject to archaeological monitoring and metal detector survey.

6.5 The archaeological trial trench evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the general methodology set out below.

7.0 Methodology

- 7.1 The Leicestershire Museums accession number X.A19.2024 has been allocated for the project.
- 7.2 Provision will be made for monitoring visits by the County Planning Archaeologist, representatives of the Local Planning Authority and the client/their agents on request.

Excavation

- 7.3 The trial trenches will be opened up using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological direction from a suitably experienced archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions anticipated on the site.
- 7.4 Machine excavation will proceed in 100mm spits. The archaeologist will maintain a constant watch and closely inspect on an ongoing basis surfaces exposed during the course of machining. Surfaces will be maintained clear of loose spoil. Machine-excavated deposits and the exposed surface will be regularly scanned for the presence and collection of artefacts.
- 7.5 The trial trenches will be metal detected after each 100mm machine spit. All archaeological features will be thoroughly metal detected, as will all spoil heaps.
- 7.6 The excavation by machine will be taken down to the top of any significant archaeological level or to the top of the geological natural ground where no archaeological deposits have been found at a higher level.
- 7.7 In the event of significant archaeological deposits being encountered the Planning Archaeologist and the client/agent will be informed immediately.
- 7.8 Some further limited excavation may be required to clarify the nature, character and date of any archaeological deposits but the primary objective is to establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits, their depth and extent.
- 7.9 Where complex archaeological stratification is encountered, deposits will be left *in situ* and measures to assess the depth of this stratification will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. Where modern features are seen to truncate the archaeological stratification, then these will be carefully removed without damage to surrounding deposits to enable the depth of stratification to be assessed.
- 7.10 Archaeological features will generally only be sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of features will not be undertaken at this stage unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. Care will be taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

- 7.11 The surface and sections of the trenches will be hand cleaned to define archaeological deposits and features clearly.
- 7.12 Measures will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft.

Recording

- 7.13 The trial trenches will be recorded in plan on drafting film at an appropriate scale, typically 1:20 or 1:50. Any archaeological remains that are encountered will be included on this plan.
- 7.14 A location plan showing the position of the trial trenches in relation to the overall site plan will be prepared at an appropriate scale, typically 1:100 or 1:200, and related to the National Grid.
- 7.15 One long section of each trench will be recorded at an appropriate scale, typically 1:20 or 1:50.
- 7.16 Any excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, levelled and tied in to the Ordnance Survey datum where possible.
- 7.17 Written descriptions of all archaeological strata or features excavated or exposed will be recorded.
- 7.18 A photographic record of the investigation will be made illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. The photographic record will be made using a digital SLR camera.

Human remains

- 7.19 Any human remains encountered will be left *in situ* and will not be excavated. Recording will be limited to the obvious detail such as position of the grave cut, alignment, burial position and stratigraphic relationships. The client and/or their agent and the Planning Archaeologist will be notified immediately in the event of the discovery of human remains. If excavation is deemed essential, human remains will be initially left *in situ*, covered and protected, and only removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and relevant environmental health regulations.

Finds

- 7.20 All finds recovered during the investigation are the property of the landowner. On completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will

arrange for them to be deposited with a museum or other suitable repository agreed with the Planning Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.

- 7.21 All finds will be exposed, carefully lifted by hand, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (or subsequent editions) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

Treasure

- 7.22 All finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act (1996) will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

Archaeological science and environmental sampling

- 7.23 Where appropriate, programmes of archaeological science and environmental sampling will be commissioned, sufficient to provide an appropriate record of the palaeo-environmental significance of the affected heritage assets. The results of this work will be presented in the final report. The following guidance will be followed as appropriate: Archaeometallurgy (2001), Environmental Archaeology (2002), Dendrochronology (2004), Geoarchaeology (2004), Human Remains (2005), and Xradiography of archaeological metalwork (2006). All of these are available through the English Heritage Guidance section of the HELM website (www.helm.org.uk).
- 7.24 Where appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples will be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged. English Heritage Environmental Guidelines (2002) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* will be adhered to.

8.0 Preservation *In Situ* and Contingency Provisions

- 8.1 In the event that significant archaeological remains are discovered the archaeologist will inform the client, the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council and the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.2 The discovery of significant archaeological deposits or substantial structural remains requiring preservation *in situ* will entail detailed discussion between all relevant parties. Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation *in situ*, they will be adequately protected from deterioration. Where design modification is not practically possible the developer must allow sufficient time and financial resources for the full excavation, conservation, and curation of the archaeological resource before development continues.

- 8.3 Contingency provision will be included to extend the trenches, if necessary, in order to clarify the nature and extent of any archaeological remains that are encountered. The size of any trench extensions will be determined in consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

9.0 Post-Excavation Analysis

- 9.1 Following completion of the fieldwork, a programme of post-excavation analysis will be implemented. This will include the cataloguing and analysis of any finds and environmental samples, preparation of the site archive and its subsequent deposition. Where artefacts are recovered they will be quantified by date, class and type.
- 9.2 Artefacts potentially associated with the Battle of Bosworth Field will be identified initially by Nick Cooper, with additional recording and analysis by Richard Knox and/or Glenn Foard, as necessary.

10.0 Report and Archive

- 10.1 A report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared following completion of the fieldwork and analysis.
- 10.2 Copies of the report will be issued to the client and/or their agent, the Local Planning Authority, the County Planning Archaeologist and the Historic Environment Record.
- 10.3 The finalised report will be uploaded onto the on-line OASIS database: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>.
- 10.4 A full and ordered archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service in accordance with their *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections* (2022), normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records, artefacts and samples relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 10.5 All 'digital-born' data will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), in accordance with their guidelines, as required in the 'Digital Archiving' section of the *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections* (Leicestershire Museums Service 2022, 21-26).

11.0 Publication

- 11.1 A report on the results of the investigation will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. The length and content of the report will reflect the significance of the archaeological discoveries. As a minimum, a summary of the findings will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

12.0 Operational Matters

- 12.1 The client has indicated that appropriate resources have been allocated for the completion of the archaeological investigation and recording.
- 12.2 It is anticipated that the fieldwork will be undertaken in February 2024. The minimum 7 days notification period of the intention to commence archaeological work is hereby given. The precise start date will be communicated to all parties once this has been agreed.
- 12.3 The archaeological investigation will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of this Written Scheme of Investigation, subject to its approval by the Planning Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.
- 12.4 The project will be undertaken by Neil Finn, a professional archaeologist and historic building surveyor with 35 years' experience working in Leicestershire and the East Midlands. Identification and reporting of finds and environmental material will be undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced specialists (see para. 9.2 above).
- 12.5 The metal detector survey will be undertaken by members of the Ambion Historical and Archaeological Research Group.
- 12.6 All work will be carried out in accordance with professional guidelines and standards set down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA):
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014a, last updated October 2020);
 - *Code of Conduct* (2014b, last updated October 2021).

13.0 Health and safety

- 13.1 All work will be conducted in compliance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc Act* (1974) and *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* (1999). The guidance set out in *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997) will also be followed.
- 13.2 A risk assessment will be made prior to the commencement of work on site and will be updated as necessary during the course of the fieldwork. Safe methods of working will be employed taking due account of all potential risks and hazards.

14.0 Bibliography

Brown. D., 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*. Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA, 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, published December 2014, last updated October 2020.

CIfA, 2014b. *Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, published December 2014, last updated October 2021.

Cooper, N., 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Leicestershire Archaeology Monograph 13.

DLUH&C, 2023. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. Last updated 05/09/2023.

Foard, G., 2018. *A Reassessment of Bosworth Battlefield*. ULAS report 2018-118.

Foard, G. and Curry, A., 2013. *Bosworth 1485: a battlefield rediscovered*. Oxford: Oxbow.

Kelly, W., 2023. *Archaeological Considerations* on Planning Application 22/00770/FUL addressed to Tim Hartley of HBBC, issued by William Kelly, Senior Planning Archaeologist, Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, dated 21.02.2023.

Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C., 2012. *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust.

Margary, I.D., 1967. *Roman Roads in Britain*. London: John Baker.

Smith, D. and Hayward, R., 2013. *A Pre-Application Historic Fabric Analysis of the Grade II Listed Building Known As: Apple Orchard Farm, Fenn Lanes, Shenton, Leicestershire*. TR Projects.

Revised 02.02.2024

Neil Finn
Archaeology & Built Heritage

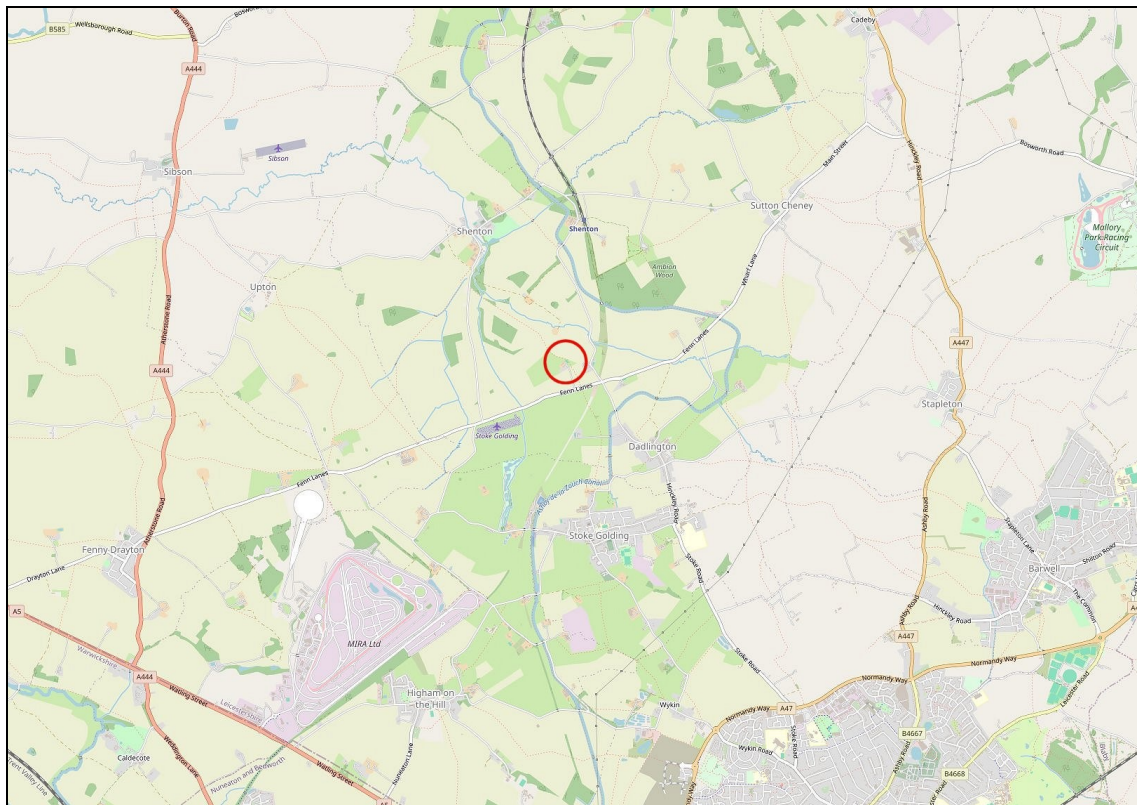
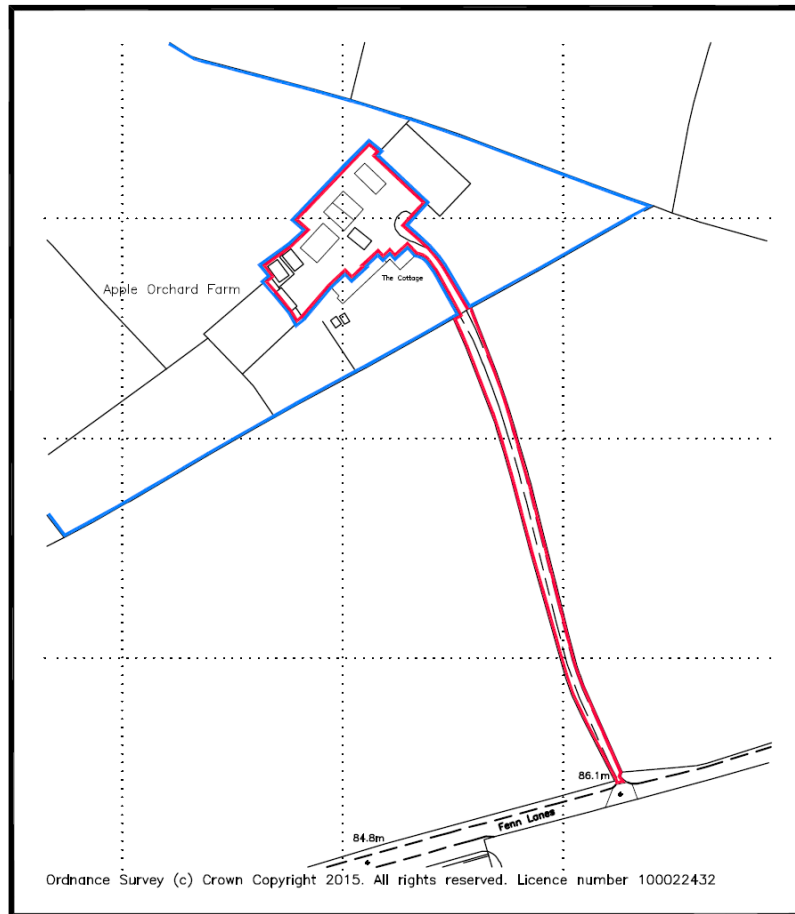


Figure 1. Location Plan. Apple Orchard Farm circled in red. ©OpenStreetMap Contributors.



Location Plan Scale 1:2500

© Crown Copyright.
All rights reserved
Licence No. AR100022432
Landmark Ref. LIG0816

DGADL Job Ref: 15.3135



Indicative North

Figure 2. Site Location Plan. Application Site outlined in red. Supplied by Client.

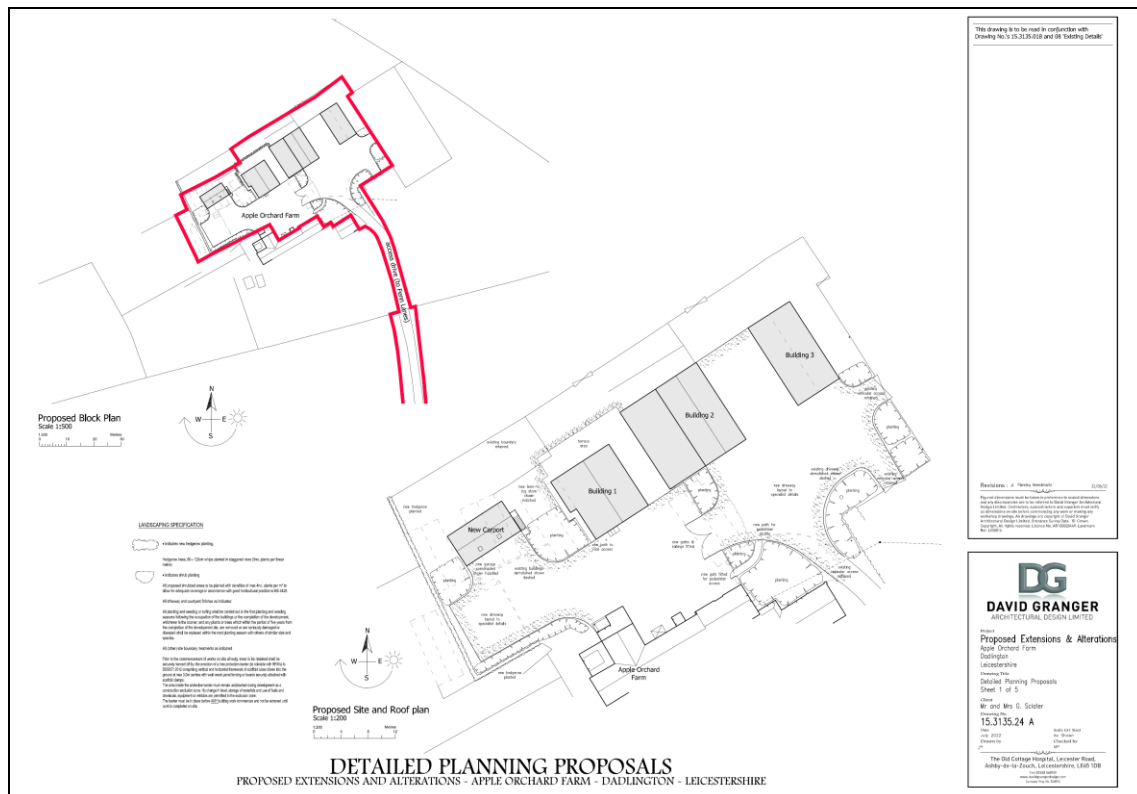


Figure 3. Proposed Site Plan. Supplied by the Client.

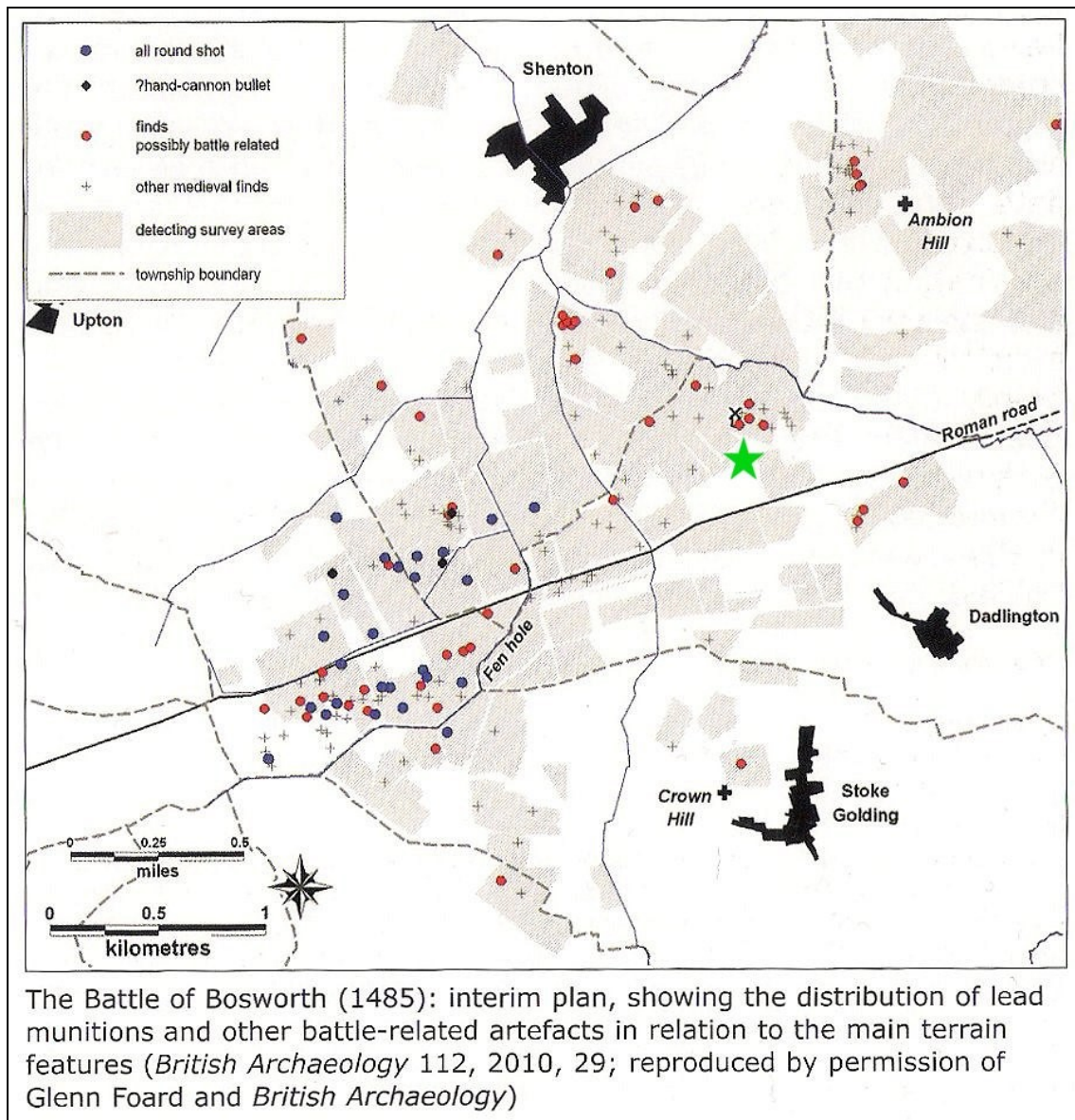


Figure 4. Plan showing the location of Apple Orchard Farm (green star) in relation to metal detector finds recovered by survey of Bosworth Battlefield. Reproduced from Knight, Vyner and Allen (2012, 103), with additions.

